MONEY OFF VOUCHER PAGE 3

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THE TIMES

No. 65,272 SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

Seven years for high-spending administrator who bought his own title

Yard apologises for failing to spot £5m fraud

By Dominic Kennedy and Stewart Tendler

THE Metropolitan Police Commissioner issued a public apology yesterday for Scotland Yard's failure to stop its deputy finance director stealing more than £5 million from a secret account for undercover operations against organised crime, international criminals and the IRA.

Sir Paul Condon made his unreserved apology as Anthony Williams began a seven-and-a-half-year jail sentence after admitting milking the fund for eight years to finance his double life as a Scottish laird.

Williams, 55, admitted 19 charges of theft and asked for 535 similar charges to be taken into account in the biggest fraud of police funds ever uncovered in Britain.

Most of the money was spent on buying and refurbishing properties and businesses, which revitalised the Grampian village of Tomintoul. The sober-suited civil servant even spent £60,000 on the barony of Chirnside in Berwick and as much again on ten other Scottish titles.

Sir Paul last night announced two inquiries into how his force failed to discover it was being embezzled, but the Metropolitan Police Receiver said that Scotland Yard would probably recover no more than a fifth of what had been stolen. Williams often lost money on bad investments, and it was this that ultimately led to his downfall: a banker became suspicious that investments by "Lord and Lady Williams" were so vast and unwise that he could be involved in money laundering.

Williams has now had all his assets sequestered and is being made criminally bankrupt. At one stage he moved into a £400,000 house in Haslemere, Surrey, but as he awaited trial, he lived in a one-bedroom flat in New Malden.

Condon: public apology to people of London

Williams, who worked at Scotland Yard for 35 years and became a deputy director of finance in 1984, began his embezzlement in 1986 when he was asked to organise the financing of a top-secret operation. He was allowed to distribute funds as and when they were needed, without having to account to anyone. Over eight years, he requisitioned £7,413,761 of which more than £5 million ended up in his own bank and building society accounts.

Before sentence, Williams told *The Times*: "It was so easy. Nobody was watching me. I had discovered this bloody great bucket full of money. I went from the alleged need to pay off a few debts to what can only be described as greed," Williams became involved in Tomintoul when he and his wife bought a delapidated cottage for £6,000 and renovated it. They subsequently bought a restaurant, a hotel and a pub. Of the Gordon Hotel he said: "I *bought it because it was there. It* was a bit like Monopoly."

Sentencing him yesterday, the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney, condemned his personal aggrandisement — but he also attacked the lack of control by the Metropolitan Police. "It is to be hoped that never again will any individual, however highly respected, be placed in a comparable situation in relation to public money."

Sir Paul later accepted that there was no excuse for the affair, which he described as a disgrace. "I am angry and embarrassed that the courageous work of so many police officers has been tarnished by this betrayal of trust," he said. "The public are due an unreserved apology and I make that apology."

The Commissioner refused to say what operation the cash was supposed to be used for, but he said it was no exaggeration to say that the confidential fund was intended for cases involving life and death.

He said: "Confidentiality can never, never be an excuse for inadequate financial controls. I think errors were made." Nobody has been sacked or disciplined over the handling of the account, but the inquiries may lead to action.

In court, Sir Lawrence told Williams: "An immense degree of trust was placed in you, enabling you both to receive and make payments without the degree of individual supervision which hindsight shows to have been essential.

"The money stolen was wholly used for personal advantage: in luxurious lifestyle, in the acquisition of properties and businesses and for the aggrandisement shown in the assumption of a baronial title. No one minded to follow your example must be left in any doubt as to the consequences."

Scotland Yard insisted that the fund Williams plundered was a unique account for a uniquely confidential information. Brian Barker QC, for the prosecution, said: "He was asked to write his own rules that he continually and calculatedly broke."

James Sturman, for the defence, said: "He became somewhat detached from reality. He was living a fantasy life. He has lied to his wife, he has lied to his friends and he has lived a lie."

It was easy, page 3

Williams and his wife acting out their part as "Lord and Lady Williams"

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Blair boycotts Nolan delay

Tony Blair said the Labour Party would boycott any Commons select committee taking a second look at Nolan report measures to curb parliamentary "sleaze". His statement was a blow to John Major's hopes of defusing the fury in Conservative ranks by delaying implementation of the proposals..........Page 2

New York's finest goes on the town

Dozens of New York police officers went on a drunken rampage in Washington, stealing car plates, shooting into the air and fondling hotel guests during National Police Week ceremonies ...... Page 13

Rambling to war

Kate Ashbrook, new head of the Ramblers' Association, has set the shires buzzing by warning "criminal" landowners of rough times ahead....... Page 5

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Jailing of young boys' parents outrages lawyers

By Bill Frost

LAWYERS and prison reform groups reacted with incredulity and anger yesterday after a businessman and his wife were parted from their three young sons when a judge jailed them for lying over a minor traffic offence.

David Whitehead, 47, had asked his wife Patricia, 34, to say that she was driving the family car after he collided with a motorcycle near their home. Winchester Crown Court was told that he believed he would be disqualified from driving under the totting-up procedure if he admitted having been behind the wheel.

The couple burst into tears as Mr Justice Kennedy jailed them. The court was told earlier that the Whiteheads had no previous convictions and that there would be nobody to look after their sons, aged five, seven and nine, if they were sent to prison. Mr Whitehead, who received a four-month sentence, and his wife, jailed for two months, admitted having perverted the course of justice last August.

Steven Kay, secretary of the Criminal Bar Association, was astonished at the sentences. "With three young children involved, the consequences are disastrous — it is wiping out a whole family," he said.

Melissa Haines, the couple's solicitor, said last night that there would be an appeal against Mrs Whitehead's sentence on Monday. "We will be considering Mr Whitehead's case over the weekend. In the meantime, she has gone to Holloway and the most important thing is we get her out," she said.

The couple's friends said that Mrs Whitehead, a Scout leader, and her husband had planned to emigrate to America after their court appearance to begin a "new life". Their plan seemed in jeopardy last night. "Criminal convictions might complicate matters considerably, " a US State Department official said. "However, each case is decided on its merits."

Before sentencing, the court was told that Mr Whitehead had been driving his elderly parents to catch a cross-Channel ferry when the minor accident happened near his home in Brockenhurst, Hampshire. His wife, with whom he ran a wine shop, was not in the car.

Peter Henry, for the prosecution, said that Mr Whitehead was "frightened he would lose his driving licence. In fact, he had only three points for a minor traffic

Continued on page 2, col 6

Leading article, page 17

FA Cup tickets at £1,000 a pair

By John Goodbody

TICKET prices for the FA Cup final are at record levels as frustrated supporters find few black-market seats for the match between Everton and Manchester United at Wembley this afternoon.

Touts, curbed by new legislation, were yesterday asking £700 for two of the cheapest £17 seats, with more expensive tickets at £1,000 a pair.

The Football Association has been running an undercover operation for three weeks to identify tickets sold on the black market. The operation has coincided with investigations on Merseyside and in Manchester by local Trading Standards Offices.

The FA knows the identity of everyone legally supplied with tickets, and has threatened anyone who sells them on for a profit. Last year the FA imposed lengthy bans and fines on clubs, players and organisations. It has also released more tickets for clubs in the final: they receive 26,696 each out of a total capacity of 79,000.

The match is expected to be played in dry conditions with some sun. Temperatures could reach 61F (16C).

Leading article, page 17
Portrait, page 38
Life of Brian, page 39
Match preview, page 40

New V & A chief 'not opposed to admission fees'

By Ian Murray

THE director who introduced admission charges at the Imperial War Museum has been appointed to run Britain's preeminent arts collection, the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Dr Alan Borg, 53, will succeed Dr Elizabeth Esteve-Coll in the £80,000-a-year post in October, when she becomes Vice-Chancellor of East Anglia University.

Announcing the appointment yesterday, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, chairman of the V&A trustees, made clear that Dr Borg's ability to raise money was a principal reason why he was chosen.

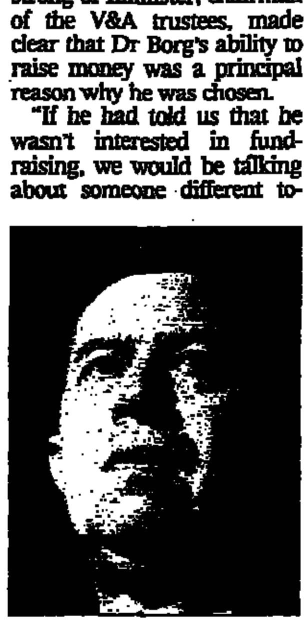
"If he had told us that he wasn't interested in fundraising, we would be talking about someone different today," he said. Any decision to introduce entrance fees in place of the present voluntary contribution of £4.50, however, would have to be taken by the trustees, he added.

"Dr Borg has no ideological objection to entrance fees, but he starts with the feeling that it would be better either to have them or nothing at all. He does not like the halfway house of voluntary contributions," he added.

The museum has a £31 million government grant towards its £38 million annual budget. Voluntary contributions raise £1 million; the rest of the shortfall has to be found by vigorous marketing.

Dr Borg, who was in Washington on a fundraising mission, was told by telephone that the Prime Minister had approved his appointment.

He is not as well qualified in the decorative arts as some other candidates, and will need to work closely with Timothy Stevens, assistant director in charge of the V&A's collections, who was also on the shortlist of four. The others were Timothy Clifford, head of National Galleries in Scotland, and Edmund Capon, director of the New South Wales Gallery in Sydney.



Borg: renowned as a keen fund-raiser

Profile, page 2
Collecting, Weekend p10

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CHUCK HOGAN

'Calling up chilling images of the
hostage fiasco in Waco, Texas'
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THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

Blair threatens to boycott new committee

Labour insists Nolan's rules must be enforced

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR will boycott any committee set up by John Major to examine the Nolan committe's proposals unless the new body is restricted to implementing the recommendations in full, Tony Blair made clear yesterday.

The Labour leader's move dealt a heavy blow to Mr Major's hopes of defusing anger in Tory ranks over Lord Nolan's suggestion of an independent watchdog to monitor MPs' interests and behaviour.

Senior Labour officials also disclosed that the party hierarchy was actively considering whether to force a Commons vote on the controversy next week. This would be an attempt to highlight the rift between the Prime Minister and the many Tory MPs livid about proposals to force them to declare the amounts they earned from parliamentary consultancies and the appointment of a watchdog.

Labour also believes it could make substantial political capital from forcing the Prime Minister to vote against key recommendations of the committee he set up. However, it faces technical difficulties in drafting a resolution. If the Opposition refused to participate in the new committee, it would not get off the ground. The Prime Minister would then be faced with the choice of trying to push through Nolan's recommendations in the teeth of backbench Conservative opposition or attempting to blame Labour for lack of progress.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, also threatened a boycott by saying that his MPs would "walk away" from the proposed select committee if the Government used it "to delay or block Nolan's proposals".

Although ministers insisted that the select committee proposal was not a stalling tactic designed to mollify their angry backbenchers, Mr Blair and his senior colleagues claimed that its sole purpose was to buy time for the Government.

Backing the report's call for MPs to declare their earnings from parliamentary consultancies, the Labour leader told the Wales Labour Party Conference in Llandudno: "If this recommendation and others were now to be kicked into touch, handed over to a group of MPs to decide upon — the very thing the independent commission was set up to avoid — Parliament would be a laughing stock.

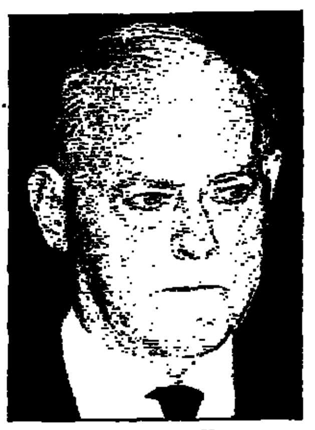
"What we witnessed yesterday was not Mr Major 'listening to the House' but responding to the panic of his backbenchers. If this issue were to be shelved after a clear recommendation from an independent committee, it would bring Parliament into disrepute and would show the inability of the Prime Minister and his Government to make a decision and stick to it."

Downing Street officials and David Hunt, the Minister for Open Government, strongly denied that the Government was playing for time.

One Downing Street aide said that the Government had accepted the "broad thrust" of Lord Nolan's report in a day, agreed to its recommendations covering ministers, civil servants and quangos, and within a week held a debate on the subject. The Government was also suggesting a select committee to deal with the part of the report that affected the Commons.

Mr Hunt said: "We have set up a working group, not to delay matters, but to come forward with specific proposals for action and specific resolutions that can then be put to the House. It will then be for the House to decide."

But Tory MPs continued sniping, with Sir Rhodes Boyson saying that the sovereignty of Parliament had been undermined by calling in the Nolan committee.



Molyneaux: pulling out

Molyneaux to boycott conference

The Ulster Unionist leader, James Molyneaux, yesterday pulled out of next week's Irish-American investment conference in Washington because of the decision of Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to meet Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader. The Rev Ian Paisley has also pulled out, but MPs from his party, the Democratic Unionists, and the UUP are planning to attend. Mr Molyneaux said he wanted "political distractions" to be reduced and the focus to be on improving the Northern Ireland economy.

Innovator who seeks to entertain and educate

By John Young

ALAN BORG, the new director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, is highly regarded as one of the most innovative museum directors in Britain. A born showman, he strongly supports admission charges but believes that in return visitors should be entertained as well as instructed.

During his time as director-general of the Imperial War Museum, he ensured that it was a far from gloomy place. It never glorifies war and, to avoid being of interest solely to military historians or weapons enthusiasts, presents a social history of Britain and Europe in the 20th century in a manner to which not even the most ardent pacifist could take exception.

Despite the introduction of admission charges, the number of visitors to the main museum in Lambeth and to the three other sites for which it is responsible — *HMS Belfast*, Duxford airfield in Cambridgeshire, and the Cabinet War Rooms — has steadily increased from 1,157,067 in 1981 to 1,277,716 last year. Before being appointed to the war museum in 1982, Dr Borg was Assistant Keeper of the Royal Armouries at the Tower of London keeper of the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia. His Oxford Blue for fencing may have contributed to his interest in weaponry, but his enthusiasms are considerably more catholic; along with *European Swords and Daggers in the Tower of London*, his publications include *Architectural Sculpture in Romanesque Provence*.

Four years ago he was considered to be the front runner for the directorship of the British Museum, but the post went to Dr Robert Anderson. His critics accuse him of being too wedded to the theme park approach and uninterested in scholarship. He is on record as saying that research is a luxury that museums cannot afford.

Officials at the war museum declined yesterday to speculate on a successor to Dr Borg. Although the names of a number of military historians suggest themselves, the trustees are likely to seek someone with Dr Borg's talents as an entertainer.

New chief, page 1

Jail couple

Continued from page 1

offence, and these were already spent."

Mr Whitehead and his wife made statements saying she was driving, Mr Henry said. They did not realise, however, that the motorcycle's pillion passenger and other witnesses had said a man was driving. A week later the couple decided to tell the police what had really happened. The judge told them: "It is a common event, where accidents are concerned, that people tell lies and try to corrupt justice."

To Mr Whitehead, he said: "You solicited your wife and father to perjure themselves, and you persisted in your false story for a week."

Prison reform groups joined the criticism over the sentences. Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "This is a monstrous abuse of the judge's powers. It seems particularly unfair for the wife to go to jail when she must have felt under pressure from her husband.

"A much more appropriate penalty for her husband would have been a financial penalty. Prisons are not there so that the mother and father of young children are imprisoned for offences like these."

Frances Crook, director of the Howard League for Penal Reform, said: "Prison should be reserved for serious and violent offenders. Judges tend to hand out prison sentences too often: all sorts of people end up behind bars as a kind of kneejerk reaction".

Richard Stratton, chairman of the 8th New Forest Scout Group, said: "It is ghastly. They are among the most kind-hearted people I know. They must be devastated to have been sent to prison."

The Whiteheads' sons were being looked after by their grandfather last night.

Sir Ian Kennedy, the judge who jailed Mr and Mrs Whitehead, has in the past been praised by the press for tough sentencing.

Leading article, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Test clears family of carrying ebola virus

A family from Zaire was pronounced healthy yesterday after tests for the ebola virus, which can turn organs to liquid. The mother and two children had been admitted to an isolation unit at Coppetts Wood Hospital in Muswell Hill, north London, with mild fever and fatigue. Doctors said that all three were now well and blood tests had shown no signs of viral infection.

The family, which had been living in the province of Zaire where the virus has killed 79 people, is likely to leave hospital in a matter of days. None of the three speaks English but French-speaking doctors had been available to treat them. They had not been allowed visitors.

Eviction order granted

Shell has been granted an eviction order by the Edinburgh Court of Session against Jonathan Castle, a Greenpeace activist leading a sit-in on the Brent Spar oil platform in the North Sea. The judge said he could not grant orders against 11 other because he did not know their names.

Calves turned back

A lorryload of 100 calves bound for the Continent was turned back at Dover because of inadequate safeguards for the welfare of the animals. Ministry of Agriculture officials were not satisfied with the journey plan submitted by the Dutch firm Nicolay, which transported them from Ireland.

Doctor cleared of killing

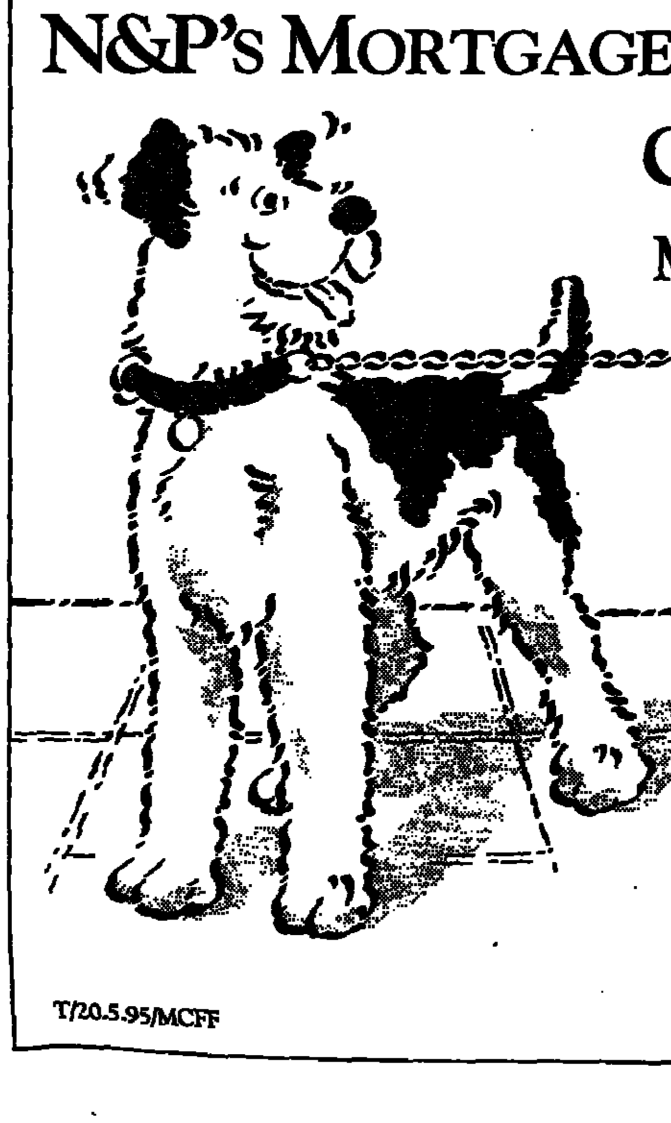
A junior hospital doctor was cleared of the manslaughter of a patient to whom she mistakenly gave an injection of penicillin in the brain. The judge at Belfast Crown Court reminded the jury that Dr Yin Yin Teoh had been tired after a 14-hour shift.

Lottery rival launched

Britain's biggest charity lottery operator is launching a scratch card game with a £50,000 top prize, equalling that in the Instants game operated by Camelot, the National Lottery organiser. Lukcy Lotto's Instant Dream cards will cost £1 and are said to offer better odds for the top prize.

£215,000 car still missing

The £215,000 Bentley Azure stolen while on loan to a *Times* journalist covering an Italian car rally was still missing yesterday. The car, fitted with the latest anti-theft devices, was taken from a hotel car park in Brescia. It is thought that it may be smuggled to the Middle East or dismantled.



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'I discovered this bloody great bucketful of money and there was nobody watching me'

It was easy, says man who took Yard to cleaners

By Dominic Kennedy

Williams: £5m theft

STEALING five million pounds from Scotland Yard was easy, according to Anthony Williams, the financial executive jailed yesterday. The trusted administrator, imprisoned for 7½ years for plundering a top-secret account, marvels at the simplicity of the venture.

"It was so easy," said the softly spoken civil servant. "Nobody was watching me. It sounds bad if I say that it was easy because that suggests I'm pointing the finger at somebody else. I'm not. I did it. Nobody else. Just me. I discovered this bloody great bucketful of money. I went from the need to pay off a few debts to what can only be described as greed. There are no excuses."

The former Baron Williams of Chirnside was speaking at his wife's one-bedroom flat in New Malden, southwest London. He was in financial difficulties, blamed on a divorce, and says he intended to repay the money. Instead, he took more and more. He says his new wife Kay and family never suspected the source of his wealth. "I was getting to the age where one's elderly relatives were beginning to pop their clogs and leaving you things."

He felt no qualms about betraying his colleagues at the Yard, where he was £42,000-a year deputy finance director. "It felt as easy for me to write one of their cheques as it was to write one of my own."

Mr Williams had a peripatetic upbringing in a forces family. He began working for the Metropolitan Police in August 1959 as a clerical officer. His first marriage produced two sons. The 10th anniversary of his second marriage will be next Tuesday. It has been an extraordinary decade, during which he became a Scottish laird, revitalised a Highland village and finally was unmasked as a liar and impostor.

"We went up to Scotland, fell in love with the area and bought a cottage in the Highlands. Six thousand pounds, to show you how things go from the sublime to the ridiculous," he said.

He bid £60,000 at an auction of aristocratic titles for the 15th-century Barony of Chirnside on the Scottish Borders. "The barony was the most extravagant, useless bauble," he says, but that did not stop him acquiring 10 more Scottish titles for £4,000 or £5,000 each. He became Lord of Hosefield, Gilcomston, Torry and Nigg, Newtonhill, Dyce and Farburn, Caberstone, Banchory Park, Whitecairns, Lochlands and Pitmuxton.

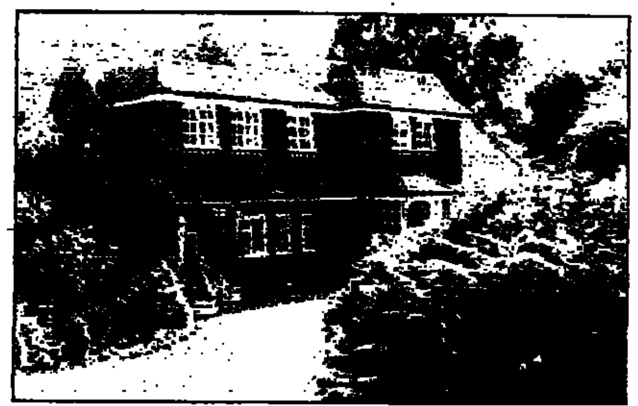
The couple had by now moved into a £400,000 four-bedroom house complete with bluebell wood in Haslemere, Surrey, while keeping their large suburban property in New Malden. His former lordship says: "I signed papers sometimes with the title. When we used to fly up to Scotland with British Airways, it sometimes helped to get reservations, that sort of thing."

He said: "There were many times when I thought 'this has got to stop' and 'what the hell am I doing?' The longer it went on the more complex it became. I would wake up in the small hours of the morning sweating. Nobody at work knew what I did away from the office. I was an ordinary briefcase-carrying civil servant."

He knows most of the faces at Scotland Yard but, one day last summer, strangers appeared in his office. "Two guys walked in. I had never seen them before. The hair on the back of my neck prickled. I knew instantly why they were there. My knees felt rubbery. In my heart of hearts it was going to be inevitable but I suppose you like to think you are going to be the one that got away with it."

All his belongings have been seized to try to repay the debt to the Yard. "Although it is sad to lose them I can never say I lost this, this and this because I never really had it in the first place."

Laird jailed, page 1



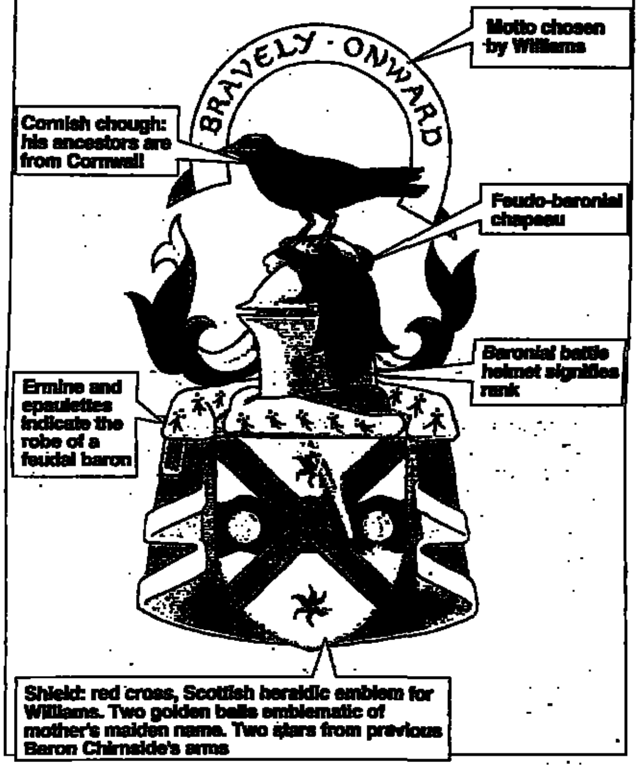
Williams's former home at Haslemere, Surrey . . .

. . . the villa he bought above the Costa del Sol

. . . and the Richmond Arms Hotel at Tomintoul

THE £60,000 BARONY

Anthony Williams designed his own coat of arms, still registered at the Court of the Lyon King in Edinburgh


Motto chosen by Williams
BRAVELY · ONWARD
Cornish chough: his ancestors are from Cornwall
Feudo-baronial chapeau
Baronial battle helmet signifies rank
Ermine and epaulettes indicate the robe of a feudal baron
Shield: red cross, Scottish heraldic emblem for Williams. Two golden balls emblematic of mother's maiden name. Two stars from previous Baron Chirnside's arms

The Barony of Chirnside once belonged to the Earls of Dunbar. Tomintoul villagers preferred to call the embezzling police official Lord Tony

Thefts started on first day

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

MILLIONS of pounds of funds intended for informants and undercover investigations into the IRA and organised crime were siphoned off by Williams.

The embezzling police official exploited a system designed by Scotland Yard to prevent corruption among detectives. No one considered fraud by civilian staff.

On the day he began his new job Williams stole £6,000 and for almost a decade milked the special account, taking between £400,000 to £500,000 a year. He was finally caught after an alert from a Scottish bank and the Yard woke up to the discovery that its most trusted official was a cheat.

The account was never properly audited or checked against requests, and it had no ceiling because no one could estimate likely demands.

Out of £7.5 million passing through the account the police drew only about £2.2 million on genuine operations. Williams took the rest and Yard investigators now estimate only between £750,000 and £1 million will be recovered.

Williams was never vetted and when he moved from the finance department, officers arranged for him to continue to handle the special account.

One senior detective said: "He was the classic fraudulent book-keeper. There were rumours he had come into money after the death of a rich uncle. The rich uncle was the Metropolitan Police."

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Police write off £1m to save laird's village

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland correspondent

THE people of the remote Scottish village of Tomintoul were toasting their former laird yesterday after a last-minute deal with the Metropolitan Police to secure the main assets of the village.

As Anthony Williams began his sentence for the £5 million fraud, his former business partner, David Abdy, was signing a £275,000 agreement to buy out Williams's share of the Gordon Hotel, The Grouse's Nest pub and the Clockhouse Restaurant.

The deal, which was signed in Aberdeen at lunchtime yesterday, means the Metropolitan Police have written off over £1.2 million.

Williams had bought the properties in Tomintoul after he and his new wife Kay had fallen in love with the remote, unspoilt village which nestles 1,150 feet up in the Cairngorms, close to Balmoral. In total, Williams is believed to have sunk almost £3 million into the village, which is home to 300 people.

It is one of the highest villages in the Highlands and houses the Glenlivet distillery. In winter the winding road that links it to the outside world is frequently closed by snow.

Lord and Lady Williams, as they were known to locals, first appeared in Tomintoul in 1986, a year after their marriage. They were made welcome and initially spent £6,000 on Mallory Cottage, a run-down house close to the village green.

Few were surprised when they spent another £150,000, adding an extension to house a state-of-the-art kitchen. By this time, the villagers believed that Lord and Lady Williams were landed aristocracy. The couple played the part perfectly and were invited to open a church sale of work.

Williams bought fishing rights on the River Avon and the couple, who visited the village about once a month, arrived by Jaguar XJS or Land-Rover Discovery with personalised number plates.

Sign of welcome

Mr Abdy, who first met Williams in 1990 when he was headhunted to run the hotel and restaurant, said: "They were always smartly dressed. Nothing flash but good tweeds. She always wore a nice piece of jewellery.

"They were quite well liked but they were distant. They were very well-mannered and well-spoken. They were always polite but they kept themselves to themselves. He said he had inherited his money and I believed him. He was a perfect gentleman."

Before long Williams had built up a property empire in the village. He bought the restaurant and spent an estimated £500,000 refurbishing it and adding a bakery. He bought the run-down hotel for £120,000 and spent more than £600,000 refurbishing it and adding a conference hall.

He built the nine-bedroom Gordon Lodge as accommodation for the hotel staff and acquired the transport depot, the old fire station and the Creggan Manse, which was recently sold by the Metropolitan Police for £150,000.

At one time Williams had 40 people working for him in Tomintoul and the 30-bedroom hotel boasted five chefs.

After Williams's arrest, Mr Abdy immediately set about trying to prevent the hotel and restaurant falling into receivership. "The Met was owed £1.5 million and the creditors were due £250,000," Mr Abdy said. In the event, the police agreed to accept £275,000 for Williams's stake in the hotel and restaurant. The creditors have agreed to accept 20p in the pound for each of the next three years and Mr Abdy has raised a loan for £325,000.

The other properties owned by Williams have been sold separately at a loss to the Met.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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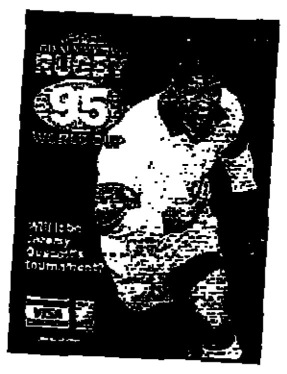


Tomorrow, The Sunday Times line-up of star writers prepares the ground for rugby's top tournament in a 32-page colour souvenir supplement packed with facts, analysis and comment. Plus, complete fixtures guide with details of television and radio coverage

German sailor lost in Channel after man goes berserk

By Lin Jenkins

A GERMAN sailor missing in the English Channel is believed to have jumped overboard when a comrade ran amok during weapons training. A 37-year-old man has been arrested and flown back to Germany.

An air and sea search-and-rescue operation for the sailor, missing from the German destroyer *FGS Moelders* since Thursday evening, was called off yesterday afternoon. He was listed as presumed dead. The warship was on exercise with British vessels in the Portland area.

Four sailors from the ship had boarded an inflatable boat to rescue the man overboard but were overpowered and thrown out by the 37-year-old sailor, who was fleeing the destroyer. After commandeering the inflatable, the would-be escaper landed on the shore 13 miles away, near Portland Bill lighthouse.

Paul Copson, 33, the lighthouse keeper, said: "He was ranting and raving in English about people being murdered on his ship, but it was clearly gibberish. He was in a very distressed state."

Police were called and arrested the man, who said that he was in the German equivalent of the Special Boat Squadron. He was handed over to the German authorities and flown back to Germany.

A spokesman for Dorset police said: "The incident took place in international waters and not within the jurisdiction of the Dorset police. We have played a support role to the German police, who are now examining the circumstances of the incident."

The four sailors who had been thrown out of the rescue boat were plucked from the sea by a craft from the frigate *HMS Brilliant*, which joined the Weymouth lifeboat and a helicopter from the Royal Navy base at Portland in the search.

David Harding, district controller for Portland coastguard, said: "The four were rescued and one of those was taken to hospital. But then we were told that the original man overboard was still missing.

"It seems one man went loopy on the ship and everyone else ended up in the water because of him."

At first light yesterday the search resumed. A second German warship, the *FGS Rheinland-Pfalz*, a German air force reconnaissance aircraft from Glücksburg, three Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, two Sea King helicopters and *HMS Brilliant* joined the search over an area of 25 square miles.

The search was abandoned at 3pm yesterday. The sea temperature was 11C (52F), which would give a survival time for someone in the water of between two and four hours.

Commander Eric Dams of the German navy said from the Glücksburg base: "The exact details of what happened are not clear at the moment, but a full investigation is already under way."

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

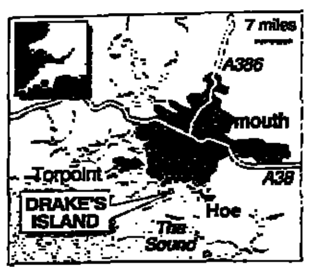
Sir Francis Drake depicted playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe when the Spanish Armada was in the Channel

Crown Estate to sell Drake's Island

By Lin Jenkins

THE island made famous by Sir Francis Drake's decision to continue playing bowls rather than attack the approaching Spanish Armada is to be sold.

The seven-acre Drake Island, lying in Plymouth Sound about a quarter of a mile from the Hoe, served as a base for a military garrison for more than 400 years. In 1956 the island passed to the Crown Estate which granted a lease in 1964 to the National Trust. Tenants have included the National Association of Boys' Clubs, which set up an adventure centre.



On the island, which has two beaches and a deep-water pier, there is a main house, formally the garrison commander's house but now an office and three flats, and a barrack house. It also features 21-gun casements designed to hold nine-inch guns; five ammunition stores; and a network of underground tunnels built in solid granite. Most of the fortifications on the island are designated as ancient monuments, and the two houses are listed.

The freehold is expected to be sold for about £250,000. Plymouth City Council, English Heritage and English Nature are keen to consider proposals which would take account of the island's history, architecture and ecology.

In July 1588, Drake was playing bowls on Plymouth Hoe when he was told that the Armada was in the Channel. Seeing the waves battering the island that now bears his name and, assessing the direction and speed of the winds, he knew that his ships could not sail, and returned to his game.

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Police tell of gun ordeal as fleeing robber took aim

By Michael Horsnell

TWO unarmed policemen yesterday described waiting "like cannon fodder" to be shot by a gunman who crouched and levelled a pistol at them with both hands from 15 yards.

The officers were speaking after Leonard Kempley, 38, was jailed for 18 years by the Old Bailey for attempted robbery and using a gun to resist arrest after a botched robbery at a KwikSave store in Dagenham, east London, last August.

The officers, who had earlier been shot at five times in a 100mph car chase, saw their attacker get out of his car and twice pull the trigger. PC Tony Diver, 30, and PC Bruce Wright, 26, and two colleagues, were saved because a bullet stuck in the barrel.

PC Diver said: "I might have been wearing a uniform but I was no use to anyone with that man pointing a gun at me. If I had been armed I would have shot him but, as it was, all we were was cannon fodder." PC Wright said: "You can't catch bullets. We should have both been dead."

The case has focused the debate on the arming of police and the wearing of body armour: both men say more firepower is vital. Their ordeal began at 7am after a gang led by Kempley fled empty-handed, foiled by the supermarket manager who claimed a timing device prevented him from opening the safe, and staff, who escaped to alert police.

PC Wright and his colleague PC Ray Anderson were first on the scene in their instant response vehicle but were forced to stand off as Kempley, from Catford, southeast London, levelled his gun without firing during the getaway.

The two officers were quickly joined by PC Diver, driver of a pursuit car, and his colleague PC David Hall, 32, who led the chase. No guns were available until an armed response car arrived 30 minutes later. Body armour was kept in the boot of PC Diver's vehicle but is too cumbersome to wear while driving.

The pursuit lasted for ten miles, ending in Lodge Avenue, Dagenham, where Kempley confronted the officers. PC Diver said: "I feel extremely fortunate. The more the days went by, the more it dawned on me how serious it had been."

Two accomplices were also jailed on robbery charges: Frederick Lloyd, 45, for 17 years, and Terry McGinley, 40, who admitted the offence, for 11 years.

Leonard Kempley and the officers he tried to shoot: PC Anthony Diver and PC Bruce Wright

Family loan feud settled in court

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN has been awarded more than £8,000 from her daughter and son-in-law after a court battle which has split their family. Martha Smith took Nadia and Simon Hoskins to court, claiming they had not repaid loans she gave to help with their hotel business.

Mrs Smith, of Weston-super-Mare, also said at Gloucester County Court that the couple did not pay for equipment she sold them from her own hotel when it closed because of the recession, or pay their share of bills for a holiday in Austria.

Recorder John Greenwood upheld all of Mrs Smith's claims and ordered the Hoskins to pay £8,706 plus costs of about £9,000.

Mrs Smith, 59, said: "It has been terrible having to take my own daughter to court. She has not been brought up to behave like this." She doubted if the family rift could be healed. "I have eight children and only one of them will talk to her now."

In evidence, Mrs Hoskins, 38, of Cheltenham, accepted that some of the loans were outstanding but denied agreeing to buy any of the equipment from her mother's hotel. She and her husband had bought their own new furniture, fittings, linen and curtains for the Wellesley Court Hotel and did not need "tatty" things from her mother's business. Mrs Hoskins and her 39-year-old husband refused to comment after the case.

The Recorder said: "I am very upset to know that this action has involved a serious falling out between members of this family over money. I can only hope that in due course the relationships can improve."

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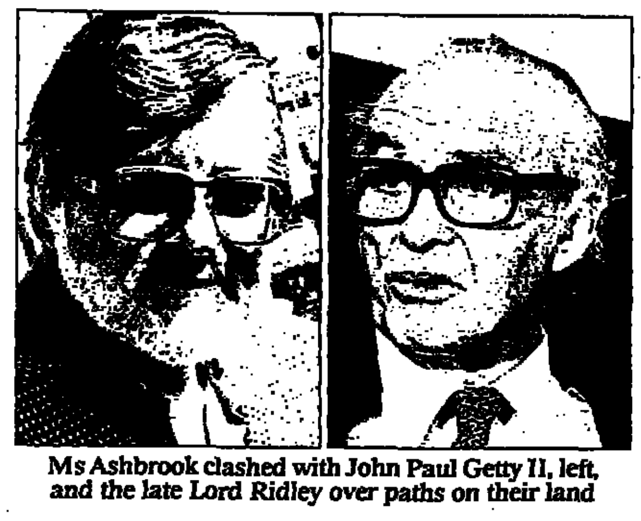
'I have never said all landowners are criminals. I refer to those who break the law'

Rambler marches into battle for right to roam

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent



Ms Ashbrook clashed with John Paul Getty II, left, and the late Lord Ridley over paths on their land

THE woman appointed to head the Ramblers' Association has lost no time in flinging down a challenge to Britain's "criminal" landowners and giving them notice of rough times ahead. Kate Ashbrook, at 40 the youngest chairman of the venerable institution, has set the shires buzzing with her rhetoric, all delivered in a cut-glass Home Counties accent honed at Benenden School.

In its latest issue, *Country Life* describes her as having *"leapt to the top of the hate-list* of a large number of country people", and in a full-page profile paints an alarming picture of a pallid-faced zealot at the head of "a regiment of bobble hats".

The tough-talking Ms Ashcroft started the furore last month with a ringing attack on "the path-blocking, anti-access, criminal landowning community". "We are fed up with being kept out of our own backyard. Either reform your ways now, or change will be imposed on you."

What the association's 104,000 members, whose average age is 55, will make of all this remains to be seen. Ms Ashbrook was unrepentant yesterday at the headquarters *in Henley-on-Thames*, Oxfordshire, of the even older Open Spaces Society, of which she continues to be general-secretary. It is a full-time, £21,000-a-year post she has held for the past 11 years while her Ramblers' Association position is unpaid.

"I am not saying, and have never said, that all landowners are criminals," she said. "I am referring to those who break the law and there are a number. The Ramblers' Association should be prepared to prosecute landowners who block footpaths, which is a criminal offence."

It is the tone, as much as the content, of what Ms Ashbrook says that has upset the Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members are estimated to own half of England. Julian Anderson, its director-general, said: "We hold no brief for lawbreakers, but we are sorry Kate Ashbrook has resorted to this sort of language.

"A lot of progress is being made towards opening up footpaths through quiet, non-confrontational negotiations. People are much less likely to co-operate if they are being lectured and feel threatened."

Ms Ashbrook says she is merely lending support to the Government's goal of clearing the 120,000 miles of footpath in England and Wales by the end of the century. More *controversial is her fervent* championing of a right to roam over all uncultivated land. "We want to see legislation that would give the public freedom to walk on open country, such as moorland, heath, woodland and riversides, subject to common-sense restrictions."

She joined the Ramblers' Association in 1975 and has already been its vice-chairman. *In her time she has* crossed swords with the Rothschilds, who wanted to divert paths, John Paul Getty II, who had allowed them to become overgrown, and the late Lord Ridley, who tried to erase one that passed close to his home in Cumbria.

Ms Ashbrook lives with her partner, Chris Hall, a former chairman of the Ramblers' Association, in a flint-and-brick cottage in the Chilterns hamlet of Turville, five miles north of Henley. Even *Country Life* acquits her of any Nimby-ite double standards, noting that a bridle path runs next to the cottage, allowing walkers to peer in.

In one respect, however, Ms Ashbrook is not quite what she seems. Her vowels conceal New World ancestry, which may explain her outspokenness. Her father is an American businessman and she is a United States citizen, although she has always lived here.

PETER TREVNOR

Kate Ashbrook checks a footpath across a farmer's field near her home

Walkers step up trespass campaign

By Michael Hornsby

THE Ramblers' Association is to step up its campaign for greater access to the countryside with an "Open Britain Day" on September 24, when members will stage mass trespasses at a number of sites.

All untilled countryside, *including heather moor and* woodland, should be open to the public, the ramblers maintain. The Labour Party has backed their damands and has promised to bring in legislation if elected.

Members will focus on three areas that have long been targets for the association. The Duke of Westminster's Abbeystead estate in the Forest of Bowland, a stretch of moorland in Lancashire, has been disputed since 1980. Ramblers have access to 1,700 acres of the 19,500-acre property but want the the right to roam over the rest.

Boulsworth Hill, close to the West Yorkshire town of Hebden Bridge, is near the Pennine Way but ramblers complain they are kept away from the best areas.

High Sharpley, a wooded, rocky outcrop overlooking the Trent valley in Leicestershire, was open to the public until the 1950s but has since been ploughed up and is out *of bounds to the public*.

Men sentenced for titles fraud

By Michael Horsnell

TWO conmen who fooled rich Americans and Arabs into buying bogus manorial titles that they thought would allow them to socialise with the Queen were each ordered to serve 160 hours' community service yesterday.

Stefanos Kollakis, 26, a travel agent, and Martin Lewis, 26, unemployed, banked £54,000 in Swiss accounts after forging and selling over 20 certificates of title, sealed with red wax and apparently signed by Lord Denning.

The two defendants, who admitted conspiracy to commit forgery between October 1992 and April 1993, were told by Judge Levy, QC, at Southwark Crown Court: "You clearly mounted a carefully designed dishonest scheme created to make a profit for you at the expense of innocent and not necessarily gullible victims.

"Whilst the scheme was afoot you led the life of Riley, travelling across the Atlantic on Concorde and luxuriating in expensive hotels at the expense of your victims."

To help to fool their victims, Kollakis, of Ealing, west London, and Lewis, of Carshalton Beeches, south London, set up bogus companies *and invented the Institution of* Heraldic Affairs.

They denied another similar charge which was ordered to remain on the file.

The judge said he gave credit to the defendants for making available their offshore accounts to compensate victims of their "ingenious" fraud, although that will be dealt with in the civil courts.

Each defendant was ordered to pay £7,500 towards prosecution costs. Lewis's contribution is likely to come from the sale of a genuine title, the Lordship of Gages, Northamptonshire.

Libel doctor loses claim for lost pay

A HOSPITAL doctor who won £45,000 in libel damages last month over allegations of sexual harassment by two midwives faced a legal bill estimated at more than £20,000 yesterday when he lost a separate claim for loss of earnings resulting from the libel.

Dr Mudiame Giwa-Osagie, 41, of Walthamstow, east London, had sought damages of £420,000 from Doncaster Health Authority but Mr Justice Drake said the Nigerian-born doctor had over-estimated his employment prospects and delayed his libel action.

The judge said any stain on Dr Giwa-Osagie's professional character which might have prevented him working had been removed in October 1992 when an industrial tribunal awarded him £7,500 for racial discrimination in the way Doncaster Royal Infirmary investigated the untrue allegations.

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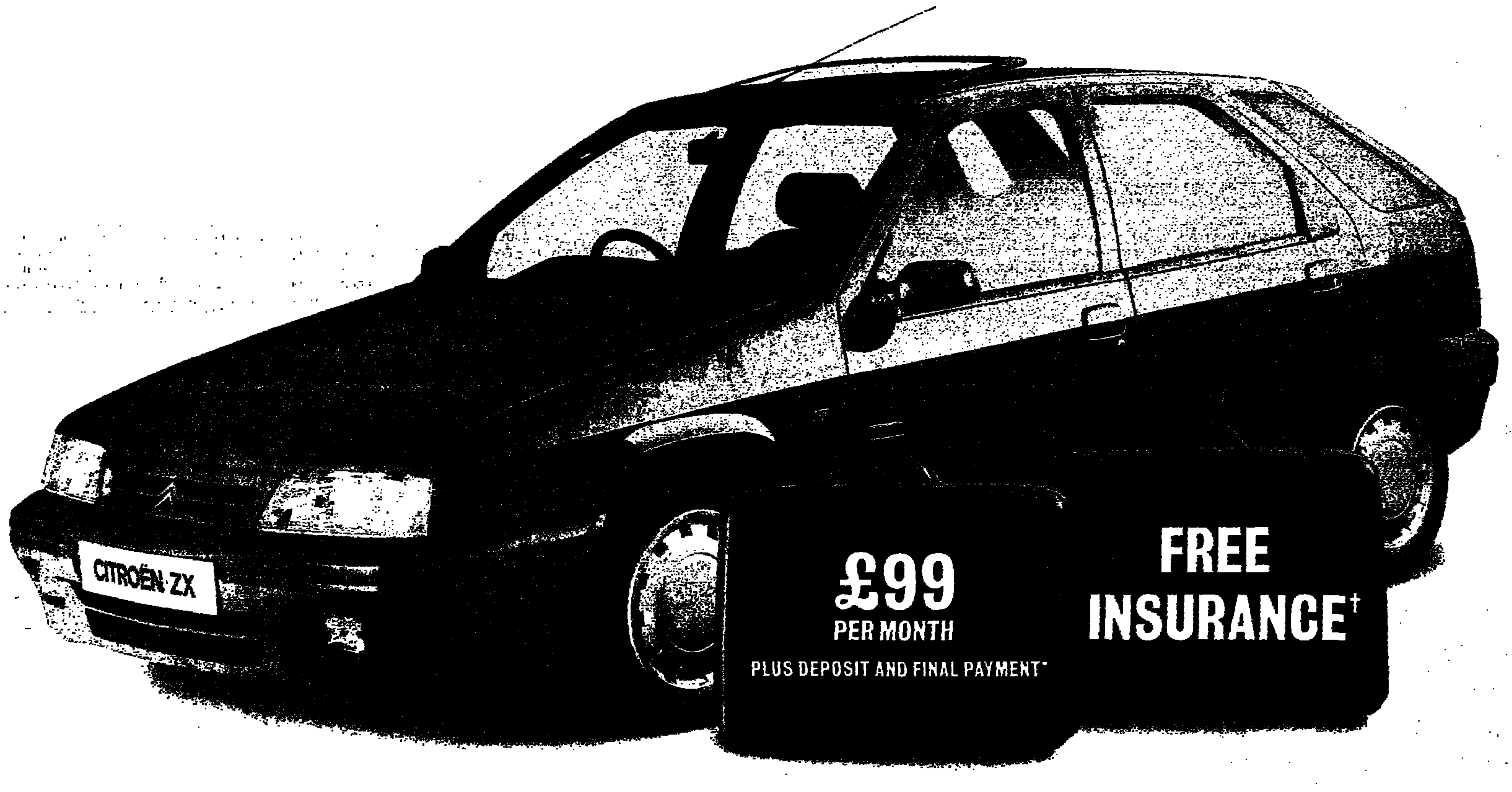

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Parents accuse prep school of nepotism

By Andrew Pierce

PARENTS are threatening to withdraw their children from a £6,000-a-year private school after the owners appointed their 26-year-old son, who has no teaching qualifications, as headmaster.

David and Joanna Thomas, the founders of Thomas's London Day Schools, faced a revolt when they announced their son Ben had beaten 11 qualified candidates, including the deputy head, for the position at Thomas's Preparatory, Kensington.

Among celebrities who send their children to the school are the pop singer Bryan Ferry, the comedienne Tracey Ullman and the photographer David Bailey.

The appointment was a family affair. Another son, Tobyn, 30, the schools' director of administration, who was also on the selection panel, backed his parents' choice. Two heads from other Thomas's schools were divided. But after two "bad tempered" meetings with the parents, one attended by more than 200, the proprietors have agreed to measures aimed at restoring confidence when he takes over in September.

Ben Thomas, who worked at Barings for two years but quit last year long before the bank's crash, will be responsible for 245 pupils, aged between 4 and 11, and 30 qualified teaching staff. Since leaving Barings he has taught English at the Thomas's Clapham prep school.

Andrew Sangster, 50, who is well qualified and becomes head of the Thomas's Battersea school in September, will work alongside Ben for two days a week for the first year. Julie Norman, the deputy head, who was rejected for the post, has been promoted and will act as Director of Studies.

But the measures may not be enough to avert a pupil exodus from the group of schools, which was formed by Mr and Mrs Thomas in 1971. They were the first head teachers and neither has a degree or teaching qualification. The organisation has grown into five schools with more than 900 pupils.

David Neville, who has two children at the school, said: "I think it is an insensitive appointment. We appreciate this job is his birthright once he has done his apprenticeship. But what has happened is an insult to staff and parents. We will have to consider withdrawing our childeren."

Another parent, who did not wish to be named, said: "He is on probation. The owners may not have had qualifications when they started here but times have changed. If he doesn't make it, he goes or my children will."

Another one expressed support. "He understands the family philosophy which has made this school successful."

There are tensions in the staffroom. The passed-over deputy head told the parents' meeting: "I continue to support the school. I cannot agree with the appointment."

Mr Thomas, who has an English degree from Durham University, will study for his teaching qualification in his spare time. He said: "The PTA meeting was hostile and I know people will say it is nepotism. But I plead with them to give me a chance."

Ben Thomas: new head

JAMES MORGAN

Scholars all: Joshua Neicho, Tom Hickox, Timothy Jackling and Ned Harrison, who have all won scholarships to top public schools

Bright boys of Hampstead pull off double exam coup

BOYS from one of London's leading preparatory schools have scored top marks in the entrance examinations of two of Britain's most selective schools (John O'Leary writes).

Ned Harrison, head boy of The Hall, Hampstead, won the top scholarship to Westminster School, while Joshua Neicho picked up the most valuable award at Eton College. Both are aged 13.

Paul Ramage, the headmaster, said: "We are walking a bit tall at the moment. The last time we had the top spot at Eton was 1978 and it is quite something to do it at Westminster as well. They are both very able boys, who were expected to do well, but they are not just the bookish sort who do nothing else. They make a contribution across the board."

Two other boys at the £5,445-a-year school have won academic scholarships this term. Tom Hickox won the top award at Loretto School, near Edinburgh, and Timothy Jackling, secured a scholarship to King's School, Canterbury, after less than a year in the top form.

Among the 46 boys taking Common Entrance or scholarship examinations this year, two also won music awards. Richard Dana is bound for Marlborough School in Wiltshire, while Henry Allsop is going to Aldenham School in Hertfordshire.

Court victory for prostitutes spurs more private rape cases

By Frances Gibb, legal correspondent

THE success of a private prosecution for rape and sex offences by two prostitutes is expected to encourage private actions by other women in an effort to force the Crown Prosecution Service to pursue more cases.

Campaign groups have accused the CPS of being too ready to drop cases: the proportion of recorded rapes that end in court has dropped since the early 1980s from 50 per cent to fewer than 20 per cent in 1993, and half of those achieved a conviction.

Women Against Rape (WAR), which mounted this week's prosecution with Legal Action for Women and the English Collective of Prostitutes, said yesterday that other cases were in the pipeline.

Anne Neale, of WAR, said: "We have a dossier of 15 other cases which we have presented to the CPS, and it is likely that other private prosecutions will now follow." The cases include five women attacked as children and three with disabilities. Only two were raped by strangers.

At Maidstone Crown Court this week, Christopher Davies, a plasterer from Margate, Kent, was convicted of raping one prostitute and of indecently assaulting another. Sentencing was adjourned.

Ms Neale said: "We are absolutely delighted with the decision. But it does pose the question of why the CPS refuses to prosecute these cases; it seems it takes more to convince the CPS than it does a jury."

The reason most commonly given by the CPS for failure to prosecute is insufficient evidence. It refused to comment on the case.

Sunbed guidance to be rewritten

By Lin Jenkins

GOVERNMENT guidelines on the use of sunbeds are to be revised because of mounting evidence of a link between artificial tanning and skin cancer.

After a warning this week that using a sunbed is dangerous, the Health and Safety Executive is to canvass medical opinion and issue new guidelines in the late summer.

The existing recommendations were introduced 13 years ago when the UVA radiation used in sunbeds was thought to be safe radiation, making tanning by machine safer than by natural sunlight.

However, recent research shows that UVA ages the skin and contributes to cancers. UVA wavelengths from sunbeds can be just as damaging in causing malignant melanoma as UVB rays from the sun.

Widespread publicity about the risks has failed to halt sunbed use. The industry is estimated to be worth £25 million a year and, while bed sales peaked in the late 1980s, 50,000 beds are still sold in Britain annually. The highest users are 16 to 24-year-olds.

Oyston for trial on sex charges

Owen Oyston, 61, the millionaire chairman of Blackpool Football Club, was committed for trial at Manchester Crown Court yesterday on rape and other sex charges.

Mr Oyston, of Claughton Hall, near Lancaster, and Peter Martin, 55, a modelling agency owner of Sale, Greater Manchester, are charged with conspiring to procure women under 21 for sex with Mr Oyston. He is also charged with three rapes and two indecent assaults involving three women.

Damages for boy

Daniel May, 3, who was left brain damaged in 1992 after being starved of oxygen during heart surgery at the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, London, was awarded £1.3 million agreed damages at the High Court.

Priest remanded

Father Daniel Curran, 44, a Catholic priest, of Newcastle, Co. Down, admitted several sex offences against boys, including attempted buggery and indecent assault. He was remanded by Downpatrick Crown Court for sentencing.

Vet's wife cleared

Jane Lamming, 38, a stable owner and wife of a vet, of South Brent, Devon, was cleared at Plymouth Crown Court of selling a £2,900 horse called Digger for showjumping knowing that it was lame.

Officer demoted

A police sergeant has been demoted to constable after shouting lewd comments at a woman colleague as she took part in a hypnotist's act at a police social club. Geoff Horky broke Cumbria police's guidelines against sexism.

Crash victim

Sally London, 39, of Ampthill, Bedfordshire, whose body was not noticed for seven hours by police after they found her crashed car in a cornfield on Wednesday, was killed almost instantly, a post-mortem examination has shown.

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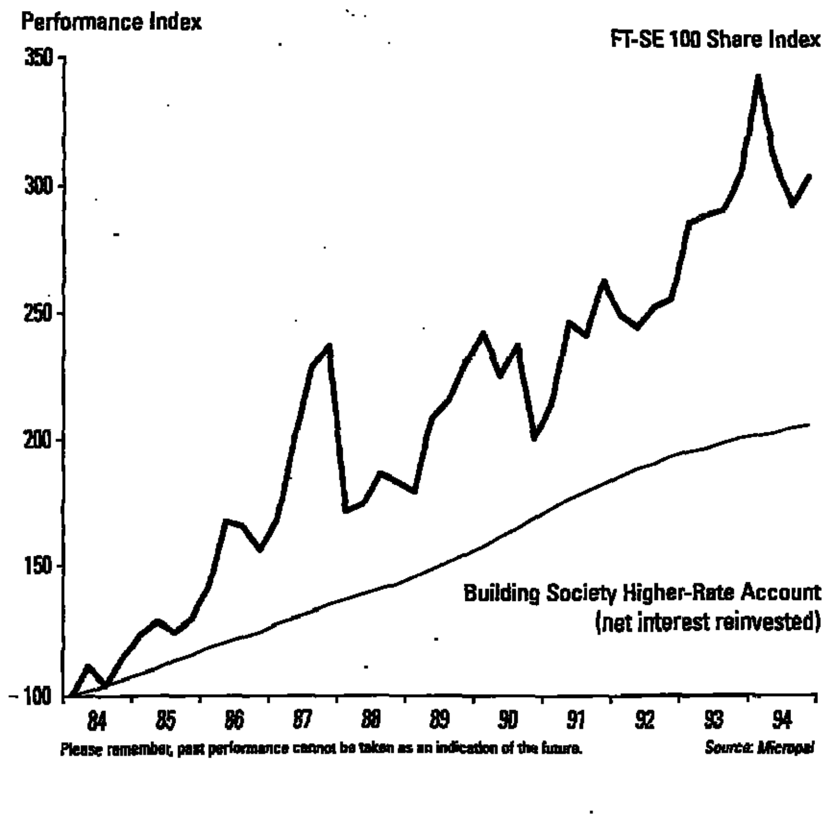

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TIMES 20/5

Restrained English hues replaced by riot of colour and bosky retreats for the tired and weary

Chelsea show forgoes formal displays for cottage garden look

By Alan Hamilton

HOSTAS, my dear, are so *out*. If you are planting this year, it *has* to be euphorbia. And the colours are so *vivid*. Forget that cool Sissinghurst look, all whites and pale lilacs, so frightfully, well, *English*. What we are after this year is *rainbow brightness*, and roses so fluorescently red they hurt your eyes.

Yes, it's Chelsea Flower Show time again. Between torrential showers, an army of gardeners, builders and carpenters was yesterday putting the finishing touches to the annual grand illusion that creates in less than three weeks what should properly take a generation or two.

An estimated 170,000 visitors will comb the show for ideas, and set the next year's gardening trends from the displays of more than 700 exhibitors.

Judging, perhaps unfairly, from a host of uncompleted exhibits, this year's garden look is wild and unrestrained, with eye-jangling colours from brilliant red to dazzling yellow competing for attention. The formal garden is out, the cottage garden is in.

A Royal Horticultural Society spokeswoman said: "Over the last five years at Chelsea, there has been a definite move away from formality towards the cottage garden, which gives the average suburban gardener far more practical ideas they can take away and use. This year there is a definite move towards the natural look, with a lot of rock, water and slate."

According to the RHS, a dominant theme of this year's show gardens is "romantic, bosky retreats for the tired and weary". The ultimate example has been created by a Hereford-based garden centre company: a tree house surrounded by a more or less impenetrable moat, designed for the increasing number of the population who work from home, connected to the outside world by computer.

Some exhibits remain firmly traditional. Birmingham City Council has mounted the biggest single display in the show, a monster exhibit containing 60,000 plants grown in its own nurseries, and topped with a 12-foot diameter globe creating the impression that the Midlands is the hub of the universe. It may be a touch vulgar, my dear, but you have to admire its style.

☐ *Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital grounds, London SW3, May 23-26. Tuesday and Wednesday, RHS members only. Thursday and Friday, public days. Admission by ticket only. Tickets still available: 24-hour credit card booking, 0171-396 4696.*

Midas touch, Weekend, page 8

JAMES MORGAN

Glyn Jones, head gardener at the National Trust's Peckover House at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, preparing a new rose for unveiling at the Chelsea Flower Show tomorrow. Breeders took seven years to develop the pale pink Octavia Hill, named after a founder of the trust in 1895

Women receive 30m nuisance calls every year

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

WOMEN receive more than thirty million obscene, abusive and threatening phone calls a year, according to an authoritative estimate in a crime survey.

Most calls were made to women at home in the afternoon or evening, with the targets frequently being single, separated or divorced young women, the report published yesterday said.

Between 7 and 10 per cent of women suffer one or more obscene calls in the course of a year and until the past few months there had been only a slight fall in the level of calls.

A study carried out for the Home Office found that 8 per cent of women had received at least one obscene call over a period of a year, 1 per cent a threatening call, 4 per cent an offensive or abusive call, and 7 per cent had heard "heavy breathing".

The figures from the British Crime Survey of 10,000 men, women and children over 16 found that a minority of victims received a majority of the calls. It was estimated that three quarters of calls were received by a fifth of victims.

An analysis of the 1992 survey and three other studies suggests that the bulk of calls to women are made by someone who knows whom they are calling. The study said that referring to obscene and troublesome calls as nuisance phone calls trivialised the offence. "Apart from the content of the calls, the sheer disruption of lives occasioned by frequent calls should not be understated."

A spokeswoman for British Telecom said that since 1992 the number of men and women coming forward to report malicious calls had risen from 200,000 to 500,000. Since the introduction last November of a system allowing some telephone users to dial 1471 and identify the most recent caller, there has been a 20 per cent drop in the number of malicious calls to the emergency services.

☐ Dr Wayne Heaven, 35, of Kendal in Cumbria, was given a severe admonishment by the General Medical Council yesterday for making malicious calls to two female patients. The general practitioner made silent calls to the women's homes to comfort himself over problems in his marriage, the council in London was told. He had not intended to frighten the women, he told police.

THE TIMES
Take a child free on a Tussauds visit

The English Tourist Board's 1994 Visitor Attraction of the Year, Warwick Castle has an outstanding collection of furnishings, paintings, tapestries and armour displayed, including many of the personal belongings of Elizabeth I, Marie Antoinette and Oliver Cromwell (including his death mask).

The latest attraction is Kingmaker - a preparation for battle, based on the Wars of the Roses, which features a combination of realistic scenes, wax figures, sounds, smells and special effects.

There are special events in the gardens and grounds, such as the medieval weekend on June 24/25 which includes jousting and falconry.

Warwick Castle, Warwick. Telephone: 01926 408000 10am to 6pm. Admission: Adult £8.25. Child (under 17) £4.95. Junct 15 of the M40.

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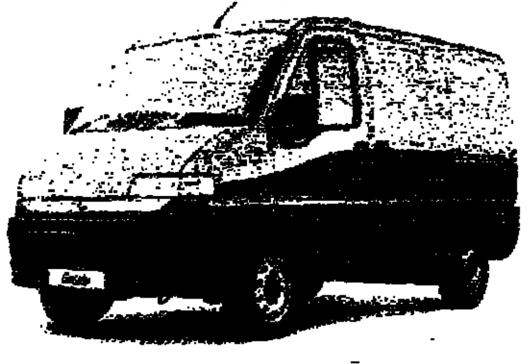

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Village hails 'victory for common sense'

Judge allows DIY squatters to stay in 27-room mansion

By A Staff Reporter

A JUDGE has allowed a group of squatters who took over a 16th-century country mansion to stay because they have carried out improvements to the house.

In a remarkable twist, the building society which repossessed The Grange, a 27-room beamed property at Pulham St Mary near Diss, Norfolk, has dropped moves to evict the squatters and instead given them a proper legal tenancy. "It's a victory for common sense. The squatters are delightful people who have become part of the community," said Jocelyn Rawlence, a former local councillor. "The building was deteriorating badly and in a very poor condition but they have mended the roof and repaired the windows and just by being there they have put off vandals and thieves."

A Dutch businessman who lived at The Grange moved back to Holland four years ago and sold the rambling house to a local man. The new owner, believed to be a property speculator, got into financial difficulties and left within a year. The Leeds and Holbeck Building Society took over the Grade Two listed property but was unable to find a buyer. When the society found squatters had moved in it began legal moves to evict them but the new inhabitants of The Grange went to court and persuaded a judge not to grant an order.

They showed him a petition signed by 20 villagers and a letter from Mrs Rawlence who was until recently a district councillor. The judge gave both parties time to sort out the situation and the building society has now given the squatters a shorthold tenancy for The Grange for rent of £80 a week.

The tenancy agreement has been granted to four of the six squatters who have lived in the £135,000 house for the past eight months. The new tenants of The Grange — Matthew Bevan, 28, Paul Wassel, 23, John Goward, 24, and Amy Watson, 20, are all dependent on social security.

Mr Bevan said yesterday: "We are frankly astonished at the turn of events. We were used to living rough and being hounded but this has changed everything. The Grange is like a mansion to us."

John Halliday, a parish councillor, said: "The Grange had been empty for four years and was becoming quite dilapidated. The squatters came to a parish council meeting and explained what they were doing. They seemed an amiable bunch. They invited us to have a look round and I took up the invitation with several other villagers. We were impressed by what we saw. The roof had been mended, the windows repaired and they had started decorating. They have also begun to tidy up the grounds that became overgrown in recent years.

"They were homeless young people and there was a large empty house. It seemed a pretty good marriage. Before they moved in thieves started to target the place and fireplaces were ripped out but now it is lived in it is secure."

A spokesman for the building society said: "It must be stressed that this is a unique case and it is not our policy to allow squatters to take over empty properties that are up for sale."

GUY BURGES

Paul Cook outside the High Court yesterday. He has not ridden since the fall at Doncaster, top right, which left him with multiple fractures

Jockey awarded £352,000 for fall that ended career

A JOCKEY who lost his nerve after a racecourse fall in 1989 and has never ridden again was awarded £352,000 yesterday by the High Court.

Paul Cook, 49, suffered multiple fractures of the ribs collarbone, thumb and foot when the six-year-old sprinter Madraco lost its footing while leading the Portland Handicap at Doncaster. Mrs Justice Smith said he was a tough man who had made a rapid recovery from his physical injuries, but the accident meant he lost his nerve and was unable to ride again.

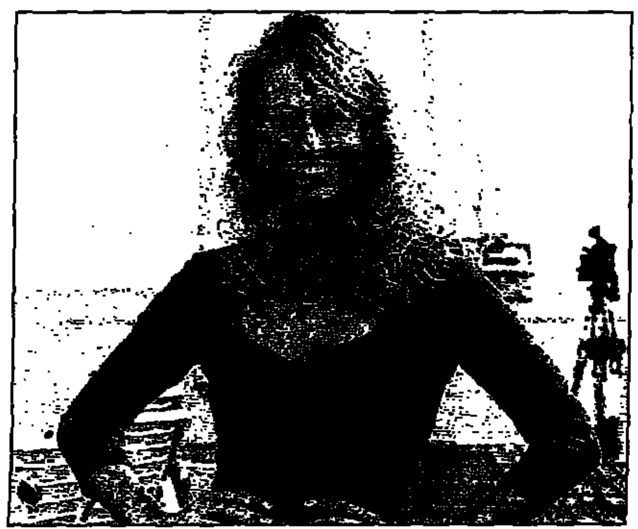
In July 1993, the High Court ruled that Doncaster District Council, which owns the racecourse, was liable for the fall because of damage to the ground caused by drainage work.

Mr Cook rode 1,500 winners, including the 1982 St Leger, during a 23-year career. He now runs a small stud near Ramsbury, Wiltshire, with his wife Carol, but his way of life had changed for ever, Mrs Justice Smith said. The award included damages for "the lost pleasure of living in the racing world".

Afterwards Mr Cook said: "Nothing can compensate me for the loss of the career I loved, but I am pleased to have been awarded a sum that will at least enable me to provide for my family."

The council will also have to pay most of the costs of the case, estimated at about £50,000. Claims by the owner of Madraco, which had to retire after the race, and another jockey injured in the incident were settled out of court.

Racing, pages 36, 37



Kimberly Roberts: doing the rounds in Cannes

Miss Florida dips into dreamworld

From Dalya Alberge in Cannes

KIMBERLY ROBERTS always felt that she would make it. At drama school in New York they used to tell her that one day she would see her name in lights.

At 15, she won Miss Teen Florida. At 17, she was Miss Florida. Now she is in Cannes for the film festival, determined to attract the attention of producers, directors and anyone else who matters in the industry.

Miss Roberts's story is the stuff of dreams for resting actresses. While working in an Italian restaurant in Beverly Hills, she met Paul Hertzberg, president of Cinitel films, who suggested she have an audition.

"I didn't think he was for real," she said, looking shyly at Mr Hertzberg, who is accompanying her on the Riviera. "I thought he was just picking me up."

The encounter led to her getting a small film part as a stenographer and to him becoming her "mentor". She said: "He allowed me to have great respect for myself. He believed in me."

In July, Miss Roberts, 23, takes the lead role in an action adventure film set in a high school. She plays a cheerleader who finds herself torn between supporting the football team and crusading against a nuclear power plant.

Mr Hertzberg said thousands of actresses contacted his office every year. He had come with his "find" to Cannes to promote her and show her to other producers. She is doing what everyone in town is doing — "networking" and "schmoozing".

Miss Roberts, from Boca Raton, which is noted mainly for its golf courses and its beaches, is ambitious. But she draws the line at nudity. "I want them to respect me for my acting ability not my body. Then I might consider nude scenes."

Weekend, page 5

Serial killer films swamp market

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

FILMS about serial killers dominate the sleazier end of exhibits at this year's Cannes Film Festival. There are more than 20 such films in the published lists and dozens more are available through production companies.

Krishna Shah, president of Movie Reps International, said that the market had become flooded with so many serial killer films that the company had stopped accepting scripts on the subject.

Citizen X, starring Donald Sutherland and Stephen Rea, is based on the life of the Soviet serial killer Viktor Burakov who evaded police from 1982 to 1990. *Deadly Sins*, starring David Keith, is a fictional story of the gory deaths of 11 schoolgirls. Capitol Films has produced a thriller, *A Cold Light of Day*, about an obsessive detective who uses a child as bait in his search for a serial killer.

As well as titles such as *Seven*, *Cover Me* and *Run Like Crazy*, which mostly involve undercover police chasing serial killers, there is *Black Water Trail*, about a struggling writer in pursuit of one.

There are other murder movies, too. "No story in these films," one production company representative said, pointing to his selection. "Just body parts over the floor," he added casually.

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Upsurge in use of exorcism divides Church

"Deliverance" of evil spirits is said to have support at the highest level of the Church. Claims in a BBC1 programme are examined by Ruth Gledhill

BELIEF in public exorcisms is rising and increasing numbers of clergy are practising "deliverance" ministry, according to a television programme tomorrow night.

The upsurge in exorcisms — using the supposed power of God to drive out demons — stems from a conviction that the world is witnessing a tidal wave of God's power as the millennium approaches. It has support at the highest level of the Church of England, the programme claims.

But the Church is also facing growing divisions about the practices.

The Right Rev Graham Dow, Bishop of Willesden and a regular speaker for Ellel Ministries, the largest healing and deliverance ministry in Britain, says: "There are hidden forces of evil which influence people and the world, and deliverance is about people being set free from that hold when it touches their lives. I believe there is a real force of evil. I believe that the devil or Satan is a reality and there is a hidden force."

According to BBC1's *Everyman*, up to 4,000 churches in Britain claim they have been "touched" by the power of God, and one in three is holding healing ministries, which can include deliverance.

Evelyn Lawes, a former member of a Baptist church in Grantham, Lincolnshire, tells the programme that through Christian counselling she built up pictures of witchcraft and satanic abuse in her childhood, and was encouraged to discover demons within her. She and her daughter Jacky became reliant on the church's leaders to exorcise them after they turned to them for help with personal problems.

She says: "It's left me with feelings of being spiritually and psychologically abused. I feel as if I've been raped and now it's three years since I left the church and left their keeping. It's taken all this time and I still feel the effects."

Her daughter Jacky says: "It wasn't until I threw the Bible away that my life got better. There are good people outside the church, but I just thought everybody outside was evil."

A couple from Norfolk describe how they were arrested and investigated by police after their daughter attended regular healing services at an Anglican parish church and began making allegations of sexual and satanic abuse.

The police dropped the case but the couple have not seen their daughter for two years. The father says: "I can't accept that she has said any of these things. I just cannot accept it. It was as if it was put to her, you know, as if she was forced to say it."

Dr Martyn Percy, director of theology and religious studies at Christ's College, Cambridge, says that those staking claims of healing and deliverance are creating power for themselves, with disturbing implications. "They concentrate that power in their hands, sometimes very manipulatively. They can then appeal to the power of God to come and sort everything out ... But it is very dangerous because you are playing with people's lives."

In a 1990 book, *Those Tiresome Intruders*, Bishop Dow, who trains Christian counsellors, says that the presence of an evil spirit can be discerned by factors such as "overwhelming guilt and self-condemnation", a sense of fatalism, addiction to drugs or alcohol, the repeated choice of black for dress or car, and "markedly unrestful colour schemes for dress or house decor".

At Your Service
Weekend, page 2

Dr Habgood becomes the unwitting hero of his chaplain's diary

Archbishop's year in and out of pulpit

By Ruth Gledhill

THE Archbishop of York's chaplain has written a behind-the-scenes portrait of the life of the second-most senior cleric in the Church of England.

The diary, in which the Rev David Wilbourne records the gestures, asides and foibles of Dr John Habgood over a year, was at first written in secret but is being published next week. Later this year Dr David Hope, Bishop of London, will succeed Dr Habgood at York.

Dr Habgood says: "David Wilbourne did not tell me what he was doing until his diary was well under way. But I forgave him and welcome its publication. David is a sharp observer with a wry sense of humour, so the portrait is not all flattering."

The diary of a year with Dr Habgood shows that archiepiscopal life is not always the smooth-running, elevated existence that outsiders might imagine it to be.

As well as tales of Dr Habgood turning up at church services incorrectly dressed and of life at Bishopthorpe, his palatial home near York, the diary gives an insight into ecclesiastical mishaps.

In a sermon on the doctrine of baptism, Dr Habgood said the trouble with modern marriage was that "husbands and wives get on top of each other too much". When he was too ill to attend a senior staff meeting, his staff ended up "having a furious row over breast-feeding". He was once delayed in Leicester and concluded: "Folk in Leicester don't give and receive, they lose and get."

Mr Wilbourne discloses that the archbishop likes to eat out in a downtown Chinese restaurant, that the "best and kindest interview" with the press he's ever had was with four 11-year-old boys and girls, and that he is referred to in minutes as the "ABY", against "ABC" for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey.

Dr Habgood confessed to a sixth-form biology class that he once ate nothing but porridge for a week to see what effect it had. He also admitted that he once ate a pound of salt to see what it did to his blood pressure, and experimented on dead frogs to see how organisms react to pain. According to Mr Wilbourne, it was clear from the expressions on the faces of the sixth formers that they considered Dr Habgood — an old Etonian who studied pharmacology and physiology at Cambridge — to be "seriously insane".

But the diary also contains moving insights into the depth and spirituality of Dr Habgood, who retires this year after 12 years at York. Mr Wilbourne says the archbishop's most abiding work, his prayers, remain chiefly hidden: "To hear him pray is a unique experience. His prayers reflect the attentiveness and alertness of an ever-patient God.

"The right words, the right phrases, the right pauses come so naturally, with not an ounce of the false piety which infests the prayers of others. His prayers have a glorious poetic ring to them, betraying an odour of sanctity."

Mr Wilbourne, describing an ordination of a dozen deacons by Dr Habgood, says his gentle smile "proclaims the victory which will be theirs if only they hold to the God he has held to and still holds to.

"Each ordinand that day could make no better prayer than to receive a portion of the Spirit which has invaded John Habgood's whole being."

***The Archbishop's Diary: A Year with John Habgood* by David Wilbourne (SPCK, £6.99; published May 25)**

Dr Habgood relaxes with brush and easel in the grounds of Bishopthorpe

Credo

Religions unite in celebration of the same gifts from God

Richard Harries

THROUGHOUT human history there has been an unhelpful tendency in most religions to accentuate the difference between themselves and others. This has certainly been true of Christianity's relationship with Judaism. Too often preachers have set up Judaism as a foil to their own faith: the one a religion of law, the other of spirit; the one legalistic, the other liberated: and so on. The festivals this Sunday, when Christians keep Whitsun and Jews Shavuot, might appear to encourage such divisiveness, for Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and Jews the gift of the Torah or law.

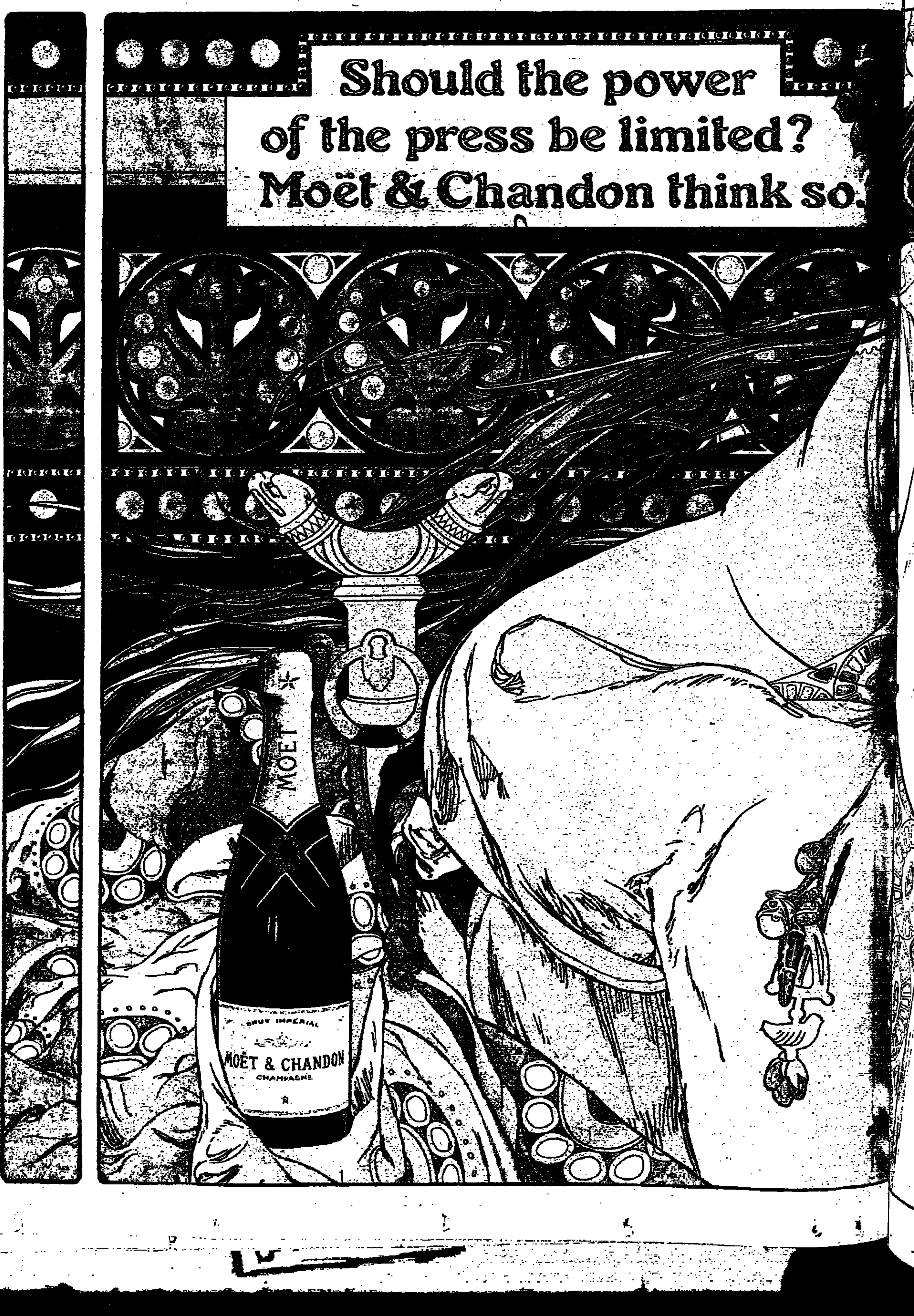
Both these have their origin in one of the Israelite grain festivals, Pentecost. But in Judaism this came to be overlaid by remembrance of the giving of the law on Sinai. What Christians have not always understood is that for Jews the Torah is not seen as a burden but as a light. The mood of Shavuot is celebratory. There has been a growing custom in recent years to have a communal meal or Seder, with this being followed by an all-night study session on certain passages of the Torah. The mood at Whitsun is also a joyful one. "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Romans v, 5). The longing for personal integration, the coming together of the ideal and the actual, is met, even if in only an anticipatory manner. For we desire to do the will of God, naturally and easily, from the springs of our being. "I will set my law within them and write it on their hearts." "I will put my spirit to you."

But these key texts, from Jeremiah and Ezekiel, which mean much to Christians, are first of all texts of the Hebrew Scriptures, with their place in contemporary Judaism as well. Perhaps the place to start, however, is with the relationship with God that both Jews and Christians enjoy. In Hosea this is described in terms of a marriage, an idea loved by mystics of both traditions. In Shavuot, the idea of a marriage certificate is sometimes dwelt on and a text from the Sephardi mystic Israel Najara read. In this the bridegroom, God, says to the people of Israel, the lovely woman who has won his favour above all others, who is beautiful as the moon, radiant as the sun: "Many days wilt thou be mine and I will be thy redeemer."

Through Moses the bridegroom has given his precepts that Israel may be his mate, and "I will honour, support and maintain thee and be thy shelter and refuge in everlasting mercy ... I will set aside for thee the life-giving Torah that thou and thy children will live in health and tranquillity." To this both Heaven and Earth are witness.

There are, of course, differences, which it is foolish and dishonest to ignore. For Christians, that Torah comes to its radiant focus in a person, Jesus Christ. He is the life-giver, by whom Christians seek to live. But it is wrong to call Judaism legalistic in a pejorative sense. For there is joy in obedience to the Torah and in the idea of an intimate, loving relationship between God and those whom he calls. There is so much that unites us, for where there is such a relationship the Spirit of God himself passes into us, suffuses us. What is certain is that there can be no dwelling of that Spirit of God in our hearts, outside such a relationship.

The Right Rev Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford



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Defiant Morris denies TUC deal on minimum wage

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

TONY BLAIR was heading for a clash with the trade unions yesterday after Bill Morris, the transport workers' leader, denied that there was any agreement to leave the setting of a minimum wage until after the general election.

This week Mr Blair's advisers strongly suggested that the minimum wage dispute was over after new proposals had been discussed by party leaders and the Trades Union Congress. They said that union leaders had agreed that the minimum rate should be set by a Labour government after consultation with them and with employers.

But Mr Morris declared yesterday that no deal had been struck with Labour and that the Transport and General Workers' Union and other unions would campaign for a minimum wage level of about £4 — in clear defiance of the Labour leadership's wishes.

Mr Morris made it clear that he had not attended the meeting of the so-called contact group this week but said that he had discussed it with John Monks, general secretary of the TUC. "There is no agreement between the Labour Party and the TUC," Mr Morris said. "The contact group does not make agreements with anybody." TUC officials had said only that its executive committee had "noted" Labour's minimum wage proposals, but this had subsequently been promoted by the party as an agreement.

Mr Morris said that the TGWU would continue to pursue its campaign for a minimum wage of about £4. The union is expected to submit or to support motions at this year's Labour and TUC annual conferences insisting on a minimum wage at this level, which is likely to lead to a confrontation with Mr Blair and the party leadership.

Mr Morris's opposition to Mr Blair's plans is being used against him in a challenge for the TGWU leadership by Jack Dromey, the union's national secretary. Mr Dromey, a supporter of Mr Blair, says that under Mr Morris the union has jeopardised Labour's election chances by continually clashing with the party on the minimum wage, reforming Clause Four and the introduction of one-member one-vote.

Mr Morris said that the accusations were a low point for the union. He welcomed election nominations from TGWU branches that showed 722 supporting him and 304 supporting Mr Dromey. If all branch members vote, TGWU officials believe that will mean victory for Mr Morris by about 156,000 votes to 97,000.

Labour leaders would clearly prefer Mr Dromey to win. He said yesterday that the union's failure under Mr Morris to ballot its members over Mr Blair's successful change to Clause Four had damaged the credibility of the union. It showed that the national leadership was out of touch with the members.

Bill Morris, left, and his challenger Jack Dromey

Blair tries to bring Welsh MPs into line

By Jill Sherman
Political Correspondent

THE Labour leader warned his MPs to co-operate on policy changes yesterday and made a scathing attack on a directionless Government led by an "hour-by-hour" Prime Minister.

Tony Blair's call for party unity came as he faced the threat of an embarrassing defeat at the Welsh Labour Party Conference over his plans to go into the next election without a formula or rate for the minimum wage. A motion calling for the rate to be set at more than £4 an hour is expected to win widespread support today.

Mr Blair's blunt message was mainly directed at deep party divisions over his plan for a Welsh assembly. He is said to be particularly annoyed that several Welsh MPs have publicly criticised the proposals published in a document last week and have accused the party leadership of watering down the powers of an elected assembly.

Allan Rogers, MP for Rhondda, has already annoyed the leadership by calling for a referendum on the proposal before a decision is taken. During a heated debate in Llandudno yesterday party activists called for greater legislative powers for the assembly while others backed a call for a referendum. The party is also split over whether to elect its 80-member assembly by proportional representation or first past the post.

Mr Blair called on MPs to back his plan for an assembly that will not have the same tax-raising or law-making powers as the proposed Scottish parliament. "It is a good deal for Wales. It is a serious policy put forward by a serious party and I expect MPs to be serious and disciplined in promoting it," Mr Blair said.

He argued that party divisions would jeopardise Labour's attempts to seize power and undermine his attack on the divided Tory party. "We must never forget that all of us — members, councillors and MPs — are ambassadors for our party. It we remember that we will reap the rewards. If we don't we will pay the price."

Mr Blair attacked the Prime Minister and his "hopelessly out of touch" Government. The Government could not decide whether to praise Baroness Thatcher or bury her, and its policy on Europe was entirely dictated by a group of Euro-sceptics who wanted to withdraw from Europe altogether.

"It is a government whose ideological compass has gone, and so can be blown off course by any passing group of backbenchers with an axe to grind or a cause to champion," Mr Blair said. "This is a drifting, directionless, divided government. A day-by-day government led by an hour-by-hour Prime Minister."

Rejecting accusations that Labour had stolen the Tories' clothes he said that the Government was adopting Labour policy. It was Labour that had argued for nursery education for three and four-year-olds, childcare help for single mothers, and greater freedom for the Post Office.

During the Welsh assembly debate, Mike Smith, of the Fire Brigades Union, attacked the policy document and called for more tax-raising and legislative powers similar to those proposed for the Scottish parliament.

Gareth Hughes, a member for the Policy Commission that drew up the report, said that a weakened Welsh assembly could be exploited by a future Tory government. "Unless we are given some measure of sovereignty in a Welsh Assembly I am afraid that these reforms will be doomed to failure.

Despite divisions over the policy, the conference overwhelmingly backed the proposals for a Welsh Assmebly.

BOB COLLIER

The Euro-MP Glenys Kinnock during a debate at the Labour Party conference in Llandudno yesterday

Former minister to quit Commons

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A SENIOR Tory MP bemoaned the loss of Parliament's prestige and power last night as he disclosed that he was retiring at the next election.

Sir Anthony Grant, MP for South West Cambridgeshire and a parliamentary neighbour of John Major, told his local party of his sadness of leaving and paid a warm tribute to the Prime Minister as "a man of courage and ability". But in an interview last night he said that the Nolan committee was the latest manifestation of the reduction in the influence of the Commons.

Sir Anthony, a former industry minister and Tory party vice-chairman, became the latest in a rapidly growing list of MPs to announce their departure from Parliament. He is a long-serving member of the executive of the 1922 Committee, the Tory party's most important internal grouping. A third of the 18-strong executive plan to stand down at the next election.

Sir Anthony told a party meeting in Little Gransden, Cambridgeshire, that he was not leaving for health or age reasons, nor to spend more time with his family — the explanation often offered by departing MPs. He said that the Commons had lost influence, prestige and power over the years and, after more than 30 years of service, it was time for someone else to take on the job.

His explanation was seen as evidence of the growing sense of disillusionment among Tory MPs after three years of being battered by dismal poll ratings, electoral disasters and a tide of sleaze allegations. He told *The Times* that the Commons was often no more than "a palace of soundbites".

He said that he was not leaving because of Nolan, although he felt the Commons should have been able to tighten up its own rules of conduct. The fact that Nolan had proposed an outside watchdog to look into the behaviour of MPs was yet another sign of how its influence was seeping away.

Leading article, page 17

Town hall inquiry call

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

THE Government wants the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life to examine local government as part of its next report.

This week Lord Nolan said that his second report would examine the House of Lords and "one other major topic" on which he would take soundings before making a decision. A letter asking interested parties for their views will go out next week but John Major has let it be known that he believes that Lord Nolan should look at local government.

The advantage for the Prime Minister is clear: after the local elections this month Labour controls more councils than ever and any suggestion of sleaze in the town halls is likely to harm Labour rather than the Government.

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Thai Government collapses in land reform scandal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

THAILAND'S five-party coalition Government, which has been praised for introducing important reforms, disintegrated yesterday over a scandal in which the rich were accused of benefiting from land reforms for the poor.

Chuan Leekpai, the Prime Minister, dissolved the parliament which diplomats said had made important improvements in land tenure and education. The scandal involved rich Thais in some areas, notably the resort island of Phuket, who allegedly profited from a land distribution scheme designed to assist landless peasants.

Despite the Thai military's reputation for intervening when politics become divisive, the situation remained calm last night. General elections scheduled for 2 July are likely to go ahead, diplomats say. Since the bloody suppression by the military of pro-democracy protests in May 1992, and the resulting downfall of the military regime, Thailand's coup-prone generals have taken a back seat.

It is ironic that Mr Chuan, the longest-serving elected Prime Minister in Thailand's sometimes violent history, should be brought down by the withdrawal of the Palang Dharma (Moral Force) party over a corruption scandal. His administration has been seen as relatively clean, and there is no suggestion that the Prime Minister tried to feather his own nest or that of political cronies, diplomats say. Mr Chuan, looking haggard, appeared in a brief nationwide television address last night. He said the withdrawal of one coalition party made it difficult to continue to rule. "The best way out, which was along the democratic line, was the option that gives power back to the people to decide," he said.

Chamlong Srimuang, the Palang Dharma leader and a Deputy Prime Minister, announced his party's withdrawal from the coalition at the end of a two day no-confidence debate. A devout Buddhist, he said he was pulling out on the grounds of "political righteousness" as the Democrat Party had failed to answer allegations of irregularities in the land reform programme.

Palang Dharma had been the third-largest party in the coalition, with 46 seats. With only a 21-seat majority, there was no way the coalition would have survived a no-confidence vote. Diplomats said Mr Chuan might still win the election. "He has done a reasonable job in promoting education and in giving many genuine poor peasants legal title to their land," one said. "When you look at the opposition, there are few attractive alternatives."

Chuan: longest-serving elected Prime Minister

In a country where 60 per cent of the population still live on the land, the land reform programme was a significant issue. Almost 600,000 families, many of them squatters, had been given 4.4 million acres over the past two years.

However, ten people given free land in Phuket were not poor peasants but rich businessmen — some with links to the Democrat Party. Some of the land they received, observers noted, was near the sea and suitable for hotel development.

Government ministers insisted that the wealthy families had been given land according to their legal rights. But Suthep Thuaksaban, a Deputy Agriculture Minister, was forced to resign.

Anchalee Theppabutr, a Phuket Democrat Party MP, had been one of the opposition's targets in the no-confidence debate. Her husband received free land. She claimed everyone in the resort province knew he and his family had long been farmers, but she did not know how many plots of land he owned. Seven of the ten rich recipients have been forced to return the land, reports say.

Diplomats say that the dissolution means some important legislation, such as that relating to women's rights, child prostitution and child labour, is likely to be delayed and then lost.

Sadhus, Indian holy men, cool off at a rally in Delhi yesterday of 30,000 rebels from the governing Congress Party. They urged P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, to resign and chose Narain Dutt Tiwari, a former Cabinet minister, as their leader, a move that has effectively split the ruling party

'Buppies' share white good life

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THEY shop in South Africa's ubiquitous glitzy shopping centres, drive expensive cars and live in big houses. That they are black is fast becoming incidental.

In the year since South Africa gave birth to democracy, increasing numbers of blacks have moved into better paid jobs and white suburbia. Estate agents in the Johannesburg area say blacks now account for about 20-30 per cent of sales in the formerly white suburbs. These days even the white holiday time-shares of Durban and elsewhere are not untouched.

The national media has been awash with tales of black yuppies, or buppies, who are the beneficiaries of affirmative action. Headlines proclaim "Black managers earning 50 per cent premium above their white colleagues" or "Black yuppies hopping between jobs every six months". The case of a black chartered accountant offered the head-turning package of 230,000 rands (£43,000) — at least 100,000 rands more than his white counterpart — is just one of many.

Although such cases tend to be exceptional, they underline a trend that has seen a rush for black talent in South Africa's corporate world. Black business leaders say that this is the premium which the country has to pay for the apartheid era. But it would be wrong to suggest the new age started in April last year. By the late 1980s entrepreneurs and small business owners had begun dismantling apartheid. Over the past year the process has merely accelerated.

Last month it was reported that South Africa's top black businessmen have holdings approaching 3 billion rands. The most prominent figure in this elite group is President Mandela's former doctor, Nthato Motlana, chairman of New Africa Investments. An outspoken advocate of affirmative action, Dr Motlana led a group of black doctors, lawyers and teachers last year in buying the *Sowetan*, South Africa's biggest selling newspaper, and is at the centre of plans announced last week to launch a black-owned merchant bank.

The reality is that South Africa is moving rapidly from a race-based to a class-based society. Research by the University of Natal suggests that 2.8 million blacks now share household incomes equal to, or better than, those shared by 2.5 million whites and that this group will continue to grow.

Lebanese leader steps down

FROM ALI JABER
IN BEIRUT

RAFIK AL-HARIRI, the Lebanese Prime Minister whose two-and-a-half-year rule ended the civil war and launched a huge campaign to reconstruct the country, resigned yesterday.

He blamed a lack of co-operation from his ministers for his decision.

Political sources in Beirut said the resignation was a device to enable Mr Hariri to return at the head of a more united government after some ministers had been replaced. Mr Hariri has been complaining about the performance of the Ministers of Information, Municipality, Co-operatives and Tourism.

Sources close to the Prime Minister said that Mr Hariri's decision came after a meeting on Thursday with Syria's President Assad, the main powerbroker in Lebanon.

Political life has been paralysed by a squabble over the forthcoming presidential elections in September. A major split has opened between Lebanese politicians over whether to extend the term of President Hrawi for a further three years or to amend the present constitution so as to allow the election of Emile Lahoud, the army commander, to the presidency.

President Assad allegedly gave Mr Hariri a green light to change his Government and bring in new ministers to help him resume his drive towards Lebanese reconstruction.

Church tries to evict Harare's black bishop

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

AN UNCERTAIN future hangs over the Anglican church in Zimbabwe because of a racial dispute involving a bishop who refuses to resign.

Lawyers have served eviction notices on the Bishop of Harare, the Rt Rev Peter Hatendi, 68, to quit the diocesan offices and the bishop's residence, in one of Harare's opulent northern suburbs.

The notices coincided with an announcement by the Most Rev Walter Makhulu, Archbishop of Central Africa, that the bishop's position was vacant, and that a white priest, the Rev Timothy Neill, had been appointed vicar-general to run the diocese until a new bishop is installed. Ranged against each other are the church hierarchy, many of whose members see Bishop Hatendi, the country's first black Anglican bishop, as determined to hang on to his power, and a vocal body of black priests and political heavyweights in President Mugabe's ruling Zanu party, who allege that the bishop's effective dismissal is a "racist conspiracy" by white priests.

Bishop Hatendi's influence extends beyond the church, with appointments to directorships of state organisations. He has also been criticised for his silence over abuses of human rights. He was to due retire at 65 in 1992, but was given a three-year extension.

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Britain heads for rift with Congress over UN funding

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

BRITAIN faces a growing rift with the Republican Congress over proposals to drastically reduce American funding to the United Nations, affecting seriously further peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week approved legislation sponsored by its chairman, Jesse Helms, calling for up to 50 per cent of American funds to be withheld if the UN does not comply with American interests and the limiting of contributions to peacekeeping.

Under a Bill currently passing through the House, Benjamin Gilman, the Republican chairman of the International Relations Committee, has also demanded strict conditions for further American funding. If they are not met, the equivalent of one third of the UN peacekeeping budget would be blocked.

The UN has strong support from the Clinton Administration which has tried to coordinate policy in Bosnia with its European allies and Russia. The Republicans, however, who increasingly control both the domestic and foreign agendas, have recognised a tide of popular hostility towards the organisation. An opinion poll issued by the University of Maryland yesterday showed that an overwhelming majority of Americans believe the deteriorating situation in Bosnia requires a much tougher stand by UN peacekeepers. The survey found that 87 per cent of the public believes that military force should be used if UN convoys delivering supplies continue to be obstructed or attacked.

During a day of meetings on Capitol Hill this week, British diplomats based in New York said they had encountered "indifference" when trying to explain the importance of funding from Washington.

"The United Nations is not a major priority with them. There is an undercurrent of belief that the UN is not effective and does not serve US interests," said one. What most concerns the British Government is the fact that the United States remains $1 billion (£636 million) in arrears on money due to the organisation. Half that sum is designed for peacekeeping and the rest is for regular annual contributions.

Sarajevo: Bosnian government troops appear to be setting fire to Serb homes in a valley south of Bihac which they captured last week (Joel Brand writes). United Nations officials said 14 buildings had been set alight 24 hours after fighting ended. However they said that there was no evidence of a policy of "ethnic cleansing".

As a result of the late payments, Britain has been delayed in obtaining its own reimbursements for voluntary contributions to peacekeeping in regions such as Bosnia. Between 1992 and 1994, the Government paid $741 million in voluntary aid, more than twice the contribution of $286 million required of it by the UN. The American assessment last year was $1 billion.

"Countries like ours tend to see that as an obligation which is not the same as here in the States," said the diplomat. He added that many Americans felt the fees were not binding on either Congress or the Administration and this this had "created tension with the allies."

Many Republicans believe a contraction of American funding will lead inevitably to the withdrawal of UN ground forces in Bosnia and is a first step towards their goal to unilaterally lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government. Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, is said to have gained enough backing to push for such a measure within a month.

Mr Dole and other advocates of a unilateral lift have been given a boost by a recent report by the Government Accounting Office, a congressional watchdog, which said that the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) had failed in its mission. "Unprofor has been ineffective in carrying out mandates leading to a lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia," the report said.

☐ **Rabat:** The Organisation of the Islamic Conference contact group yesterday called for an urgent UN General Assembly session to press for implementation of a peace plan for Bosnia. *(Reuter)*

Joe Fontaine, the Montana Wolf Recovery Project leader, with one of eight wolf cubs found with their mother. They will be moved to Yellowstone National Park

Wolves return to Yellowstone

NEARLY 70 years after they were wiped out, wolves are being reintroduced to the northern Rocky Mountains in the United States (Anjana Ahuja writes). Since January the Wolf Recovery Programme has reintroduced 14 grey wolves to Yellowstone National Park and 15 to central Idaho. Montana and Wyoming, which take in portions of the park, are also involved. The last wolf cubs were killed in 1926. "Big game like elk and deer were killed off at the turn of the century," Ed Bangs, who leads the project, said yesterday. "With those sources of food gone, people thought that wolves would eat their livestock. They also thought wolves were associated with the devil."

Wolves first reappeared in 1986 when a pair migrated from Canada to Glacier National Park in Montana, on the Canadian border. The wolves have since produced 73 descendants.

New York police in drunken rampage

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

UP TO 100 junior New York policemen may be dismissed after going on a drunken rampage in five Washington hotels.

At least two hotels had to be evacuated in the early hours as a result of pranks by the visiting officers men from the police department. They set off fire alarms, stole car number plates, and fired automatic weapons into the air.

They also groped guests, bared their bottoms, tore through corridors yelling and screaming, and slid naked down the escalator at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. Firemen were called at 3am on Monday, but found no evidence of a blaze.

The officers were among thousands visiting Washington to mark National Police Week, an event to honour fallen comrades. This year the event included a ceremony with President Clinton.

Barbara Smith, a union worker staying at the Hyatt, said she was fondled by up to 15 semi-clad drunken policemen who had congregated near a lift door and grabbed women as they emerged. "If they were here to honour their brothers and sisters who have fallen in the line of duty, it's a disgrace," she said. "I saw officers in uniforms, beers in each hand, guns in their holsters, falling down drunk." One asked if it was true that "blondes have more fun".

William Bratton, the New York Police Commissioner, said he would dismiss the officers if he could. "They're morons; they're nitwits," he said. "They did things you would not normally associate with professionals."

Pilot faces discharge for views on women

From Associated Press
in Jacksonville

A NAVY board has voted unanimously to recommend an honourable discharge for a helicopter pilot who says his religious beliefs would keep him from leading women into combat.

The recommendation by the three Navy captains to dismiss Lieutenant-Commander Kenneth Carkhuff, based with an anti-submarine unit at Mayport Naval Station, for failure to support and carry out Pentagon policy, now goes to the Secretary of the Navy.

"I think the Bible clearly teaches that we should not subject women to violence," Lieutenant Carkhuff, 35, who attends an Episcopal church, said. "I think combat is probably the most extreme violence one can undergo in society."

If John Dalton, the Navy Secretary, approves the board's recommendation, Lieutenant Carkhuff can appeal to federal court, according to Stephen Gallagher, his lawyer.

Commander Douglas Beeks, his squadron leader, testified that in August Lieutenant Carkhuff told him that, after months of consideration and prayer, he had decided he opposed the policy allowing women in combat. At the time his helicopter detachment, which had two women pilots, was preparing for possible assignment in the military operation in Haiti.

His commanding officers said they never considered letting Lieutenant Carkhuff lead the detachment after his views were known. They feared that he might put himself or others in danger to protect the women.

Jackson risks TV grilling

From Giles Whittell
in Los Angeles

BARELY a year after his global humiliation amid allegations of child sex abuse the singer Michael Jackson is staking his future on a new album, and on a controversial live television interview to promote it.

Mr Jackson and his wife, Elvis Presley's daughter Lisa Marie Presley, will be interviewed together and separately next month by Diane Sawyer of ABC.

In what will be his first interview in over two years, the reclusive musician has agreed to discuss charges that he molested a 13 year-old boy at his Neverland ranch — charges that were dropped last September but that risked ruining his career even after an out-of-court settlement involving a £12 million payment.

In return Ms Sawyer has allowed the man who would once again be King of Pop choose his venue: a reconstructed Egyptian temple in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, described as one of his favourite places in Manhattan. A spokeswoman for Ms Sawyer's ABC news magazine *Primetime Live* denied that in agreeing to the interview the network was helping to rehabilitate Mr Jackson, who declared himself innocent of the abuse charges in a public statement but never in court.

Divided loyalties hamper 'President Powell' lobby

From Ian Brodie in Washington

COLIN POWELL, extolled in many quarters as a dream candidate for President of the United States, has admitted that his loyalties are split between the Republicans and Democrats.

In his most explicit comments to date, the first black American to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff conceded that he was keeping his political options open, but that his views veered from left to right.

He told a gathering of mutual fund executives that he tended to agree with the Republicans on economic policies and foreign affairs, but with the Democrats on social justice issues. "I don't find yet that I fit neatly into either party," he said.

His remark seems to indicate that he might consider running as an independent, if he stands at all. No third-party candidate has managed to reach the White House, but in 1992 Ross Perot proved that many voters yearned for an alternative to the two main parties. Running on his own ticket, Mr Perot won 19 million votes, equal to 19 per cent of the total cast, despite an erratic and interrupted campaign.

General Powell, now retired from the US Army, was candid about his indecision. "At the moment, I'm preserving my options, learning a lot about my country and about myself," he said. "I want to make a contribution, but I don't know if politics is right for me."

He said he favoured many steps in the Republicans' *Contract with America* to reduce government and trim inefficient programmes, but he was disturbed by proposals that would penalise the poor. Parts of the package were a little too harsh and unkind. "We don't yet have a level playing field in our society," he said.

General Powell's divided allegiance is a reflection of his experience. He reminded his audience that he was "a New Deal kid" — a reference to the Democrats' programme under President Roosevelt's leadership to end the Great Depression in the Thirties, when he was growing up in the decaying South Bronx area of New York City. He was the son of Jamaican immigrants.

Powell: "I do not fit neatly into either political party"

His father worked as a shipping clerk in a clothing factory and his mother did piece-work sewing at home. The South Bronx was a blue-collar district so solidly Democratic that few residents had even met a Republican, let alone voted for one. General Powell was still a Democrat while serving as an army lieutenant in the still-segregated South. His second-hand Volkswagen bore a bumper sticker with the slogan "All the way with LBJ", the initials of President Johnson, a Democrat. The young soldier also supported Johnson's civil rights legislation and his conduct of the war in Vietnam.

Yet when General Powell's career took off in Washington, his guides and mentors were influential Republicans, notably Caspar Weinberger and Frank Carlucci, who both became Defence Secretary. His appointments at the White House and Pentagon were made possible by two Republican Presidents he greatly admired — Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

General Powell will make no decision about running for office until his autobiography is published in September and he has finished an extensive tour to promote the book. In the meantime, he neither encourages nor deters efforts to organise a "Draft Powell" movement.

Chapters of Powell supporters have sprung up in more than 30 of the 50 states. This week, the campaign received a prestigious boost when Stephen Ambrose, the historian who won fame as President Eisenhower's biographer, retired from his professorship in New Orleans and said he would devote himself to the promotion of General Powell as the next president.

"This man is extraordinary — the best-qualified candidate in America," he said, comparing General Powell favourably to Eisenhower.

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Belgian Far Right likely to gain from Agusta aftermath

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN BRUSSELS

DEMANDS for a clampdown on immigration and welfare spending are expected to lead to significant gains for the extreme right-wing Vlaams Blok tomorrow in a general election campaign overshadowed by the biggest corruption scandal in Belgium's history.

The Agusta affair, in which £1 million was paid to the Flemish Socialist Party for a £1 billion contract to supply the Belgian army with helicpoters in 1988, has led to a sharp decline in support for the Flemish and French Socialists, which could undermine the Christian Democrat-Socialist coalition, led by Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister. Polls published yesterday indicated that 30 per cent of the electorate were still undecided on how they would vote.

Mr Dehaene is expected to survive Sunday's poll but few observers are prepared to predict whether the next government will be a Centre-Left or Centre-Right coalition.

Voting is compulsory in the poll to elect a new federal government and regional assemblies in Flanders, Wallonia and bilingual Brussels in the first general election since Belgium became a federal state in 1993.

Whatever the outcome, the Government will only emerge after protracted backroom negotiations between Christian Democrats, Socialists and Liberals. These talks could take weeks or even months.

Mr Dehaene called the election seven months early in the hope of securing a mandate to push through a package of stringent economic reforms, designed to ensure that Belgium is among the first wave of European Union countries to fulfil the Maastricht criteria for economic and monetary union.

Belgium's political elite is terrified of being sidelined in the Union's move towards a common currency. An economic and monetary union that excluded Belgium would be acutely embarrassing for the Government.

By 2000 Belgium will not have enough money in the budget to support its ageing population. It can no longer afford the cradle-to-grave welfare system, which has lumbered the country with the highest level of taxation and public debt in the industrialised world.

With unemployment running at 14 per cent, however, cuts in welfare spending will be difficult medicine to administer. Unemployment is considerably higher in the declining smokestack regions of French-speaking Wallonia than in the high-tech sunrise industries of Dutch-speaking Flanders. The net outflow of resources from Flanders to Wallonia has fanned regional resentments. The more intransigent the Walloons are in the face of ever more vocal demands for reform, the more the Flemish flirt with separation.

Mr Dehaene knows that a root-and-branch overhaul of the social security system cannot be delayed any longer. Since proportional representation ensures no party can secure a parliamentary majority, and virtually all governments have been coalitions, the only question is who will be the coalition partner to help him wield the knife.

Only the Vlaams Blok, an anti-immigration party based in Antwerp, appears to have gained from the Agusta defence contract scandal. It is expected to win between 12 and 14 per cent of the vote, but it is unlikely to appear in the new coalition.

Brussels: Three Flemish Socialist Party officials, jailed over the Agusta scandal, were freed after three months in jail. This followed questioning by Belgium's top court of Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General and former economics minister. The three are Etienne Mange, Luc Wallyn, and Johan Delanghe, Mr Claes's former chief of staff. Alfons Pullinckx, a lawyer close to the party, was freed. *(AP)*

Jürgen Schneider, minus toupee and with moustache, is escorted by FBI agents after being arrested in Miami. It could be more than six months before he returns to Germany to face charges over debts of about £2.2 billion.

Bonn presses for tycoon's return

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY is to request the extradition from the United States of Jürgen Schneider, the fugitive property magnate who was arrested in Miami on Thursday.

The Frankfurt prosecutor's office said it would send the arrest warrant, on five counts of fraud with supplementary evidence, to the United States within the required 40 days, but said that it might be more than six months before he returns to face trial.

Dr Schneider borrowed heavily from banks to renovate buildings, immediately renting out the office space, and then moving on with fresh loans, to build elsewhere. His speciality was shopping malls and renovations in eastern Germany, where he could claim improvement grants and tax write-offs. When the rental market crumbled, Dr Schneider found himself unable to pay his workers or service his loans, most granted by the Deutsche Bank.

Thirteen months ago he disappeared, carrying eight suitcases stuffed with banknotes. Behind him he left Germany's first big property crash, a 100-room castle and dozens of conspiracy theories.

In fact, he simply removed his toupee, grew a moustache and went to Florida with his blonde wife, Claudia, who has also been held. The overall Schneider group debt was calculated at five billion marks (£2.2 billion).

Only days before the FBI trapped him in front of a bank, Dr Schneider released a tape recording to German television, portraying himself as a victim of the banks. The suspicion yesterday was that the Schneiders — perhaps homesick — were preparing to strike a deal with the authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bermuda to vote on ties with Britain

The Bermuda Government announced yesterday that it will hold a referendum on the island's independence on August 15 (Michael Binyon writes). Britain's oldest self-governing colony has been settled for nearly 400 years, but unrest has been growing over proposals to reorganise the police, culminating in a demand by some local politicians for independence. Constitutional talks would follow.

Bee road

Santiago: Motorists sat tight in their cars with windows closed when a truck carrying a million bees overturned on a Chilean road, releasing swarms. Beekeepers recovered most of them. *(Reuter)*

Greek tremor

Athens: A second strong earthquake, measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale, hit Kozani in northern Greece which was devastated last week. Twenty people were hurt in the first tremor. *(Reuter)*

Strikers held

Seoul: Riot police stormed Hyundai Motors, South Korea's largest car factory, and arrested about 280 striking union members. The Government said such crackdowns would continue. *(Reuter)*

Cannibal rats

Alma Ata: Health officials in Kazakhstan are creating cannibal rats by starving them in captivity until they turn on each other. They are then released in an attempt to curb rodents. *(Reuter)*

Shocking pink

New York: Alabama, the state that recently reintroduced chain gangs, is to punish male prisoners who habitually expose themselves to female staff by making them wear bright pink uniforms.

Chain sore

Auckland: A Maori activist was found guilty of a chainsaw attack on Auckland's noted landmark, a 120-year-old pine tree. Mike Smith, 37, will be sentenced later. *(Reuter)*

Debts force German prince to sell treasures

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MARGRAVE MAX of Baden, a nephew of the Duke of Edinburgh, is so strapped for cash that he is stripping valuable paintings and tapestries from his palaces and offering them for auction. Sotheby's in Frankfurt said the auction house was photographing the collection for an inventory and catalogue.

The sale, which probably will be in the autumn, is expected to last two weeks: several thousand works are coming under the hammer. Art experts say it will be the biggest German palace sale since the war, well outstripping the auction by Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis of family silver and furniture. Germany's aristocratic families are stumbling into financial crisis as they try to maintain vast, unprofitable acres of woodland, expensive palaces and poorly managed family concerns such as breweries, orchards and vineyards.

Princess Gloria, a former punk singer and enthusiastic Harley-Davidson rider who inherited the estates from her husband, raised 31 million marks (£13.6 million) from her auction in 1993 which was also organised by Sotheby's.

The Margrave of Baden, is a 61-year-old gaunt and bespectacled aristocrat. His predicament is similar to Princess Gloria's. His factories have been losing money, his palaces in Salem, Gernsbach and Baden Baden need renovation and his 10,400 acres of forest land soak up cash. The auction of his treasures could fetch as much as 100 million marks. That should go some way towards paying off his debts which are estimated at about £60 million.

It seems, however, that the margrave would prefer the German Government to exercise an early purchase option in some of the works up for sale, including 18th-century tapestries presented by Louis XIV to Cardinal de Rohan, which plainly are part of the national heritage. The Government of Baden Württemberg is unsure whether it can afford the princely sum required. Social Democrats in the regional government say that the margrave is in effect threatening the government: either buy up my treasures or they will be snapped up by foreign purchasers.

But the Christian Democrat members of the state government seem to be ready to buy at least some of the more valuable works. Of more than 6,000 works for sale, about 200 are listed as of cultural significance to Germany.

Chirac vows to give voters a greater say

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC yesterday promised more powers for parliament as he repeated his promise to fight the "cancer of unemployment".

"People do not have much confidence in their leaders while unemployment remains so high," he said. France has about 3.2 million jobless.

In a message to both houses of parliament, M Chirac said he would reform the constitution to introduce a single, longer parliamentary session and make wider use of the referendum to give a greater say to the people.

Philippe Séguin, one of the architects of M Chirac's victory, has long campaigned for a single nine-month parliamentary session to strengthen checks on government decisions and the power of the President.

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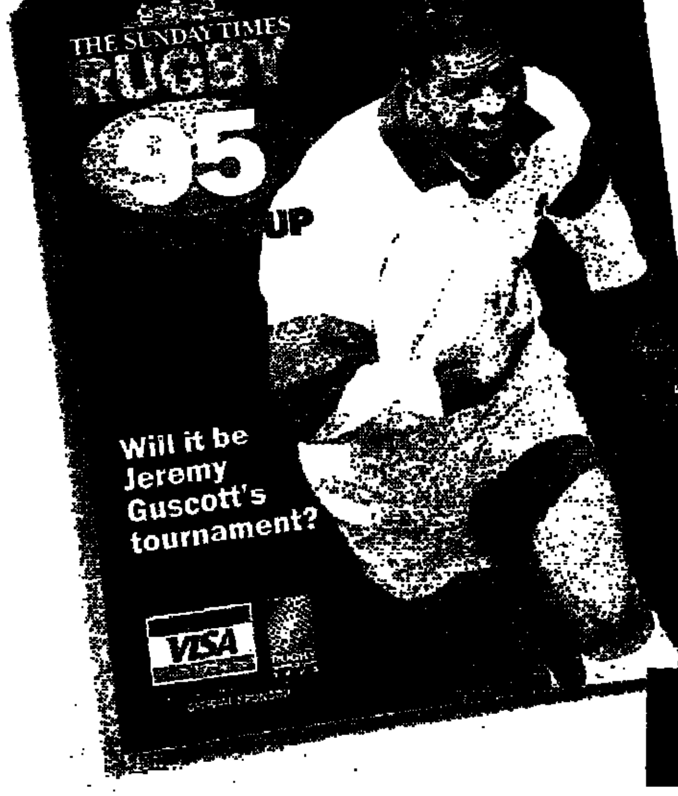

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Italy's post-Fascist first couple try to pick up the pieces after electoral drubbing

Sports win consoles Fini

ROME FILE

by JOHN PHILLIPS

THE leader of Italy's post-Fascist National Alliance, Gianfranco Fini, sought solace in family life after his party lost hard-fought provincial elections this month.

Signor Fini, 43, often seems to yearn for the orderly days when much of northern Italy was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He took his formidable wife Daniela to Vienna for a romantic break after his party's electoral setback, but the visit was not a success. "Vienna is a dead city," said Signora Fini, 40, a fun-loving former typist at the *Secolo d'Italia*, the neo-Fascist newspaper. "I didn't want to go dancing every night, but I wanted a slice of *sachertorte* (chocolate cake). By 8pm everything was closed."

Back in Rome, the couple found comfort in their shared love of football. Signora Fini, a supporter of first division Lazio who likes to flaunt her furs while chain-smoking in the stands of Rome's Olympic Stadium, took heart from her club's stunning victory over Juventus, of which her husband's press spokesman, Salvo Sottile, is a big fan.

"We put three balls in past you," Signora Fini teased him. "We crushed you like worms." Signor Fini plays fullback in the parliamentary team. Signora Fini also took a swipe at her husband's erstwhile ally, Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister. "Gianfranco should have been given more of the limelight," she yelled at a reporter from *La Stampa* as she fed ice cream to the suntanned National Alliance supremo at a café in front of the Pantheon.

Insiders Signora Fini has long nurtured her husband's dream of becoming Prime Minister. But the latest polls, in which the Left and Centre captured 48 out of 54 provincial councils, proved that Signor Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance is not invincible. It may be years before Signora Fini leaves her modest suburban flat in the hills south of Rome for Palazzo Chigi.

Evidently egged on by his wife, Signor Fini angrily suggested that the media mogul should take "a step backward" after the unexpected debacle in the elections. But the 58-year-old Milanese billionaire snorted "I shall take two steps forward."

Gianfranco and Daniela Fini visited Austria after his party's election setback, but the wife of the National Alliance leader pronounced Vienna "a dead city"

Mamma of parliamentary battles

Alessandra Mussolini, 32, is seven months pregnant, and she disclosed this week, her first child will be a girl, dashing her hopes of naming it Benito after her grandfather, Il Duce. The fiery MP for Naples and her policeman husband, Mauro, will call their daughter Caterina, in memory of the dictator's grandmother, Caterina Vasumi. Once she gives birth in July, Sophia Loren's niece plans a new battle in the Chamber of Deputies. "Parliament is maschilista [male chauvinist]," she said. "There is no maternity leave for deputies or senators." Signora Mussolini has enrolled Marida Bolognesi, a former adversary and MP for the Communist Refoundation party, in her campaign for a crèche to be installed for "mamma" politicians inside the Montecitorio building.

Left gains help to sink Rome daily

A SECOND newspaper has ceased publication because patronage from centre-Right parties and the Roman Catholic group Opus Dei has dried up after the left-wing gains in regional and provincial polls.

L'Informazione, the Rome daily paper, specialised in attacks on President Scalfaro. Mario Pendinelli, its editor, said Massimo D'Alema, the former communist Democratic Party of the Left leader, was setting up a "dictatorship". This was a reference to Signor D'Alema's key support for Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, who was not directly elected but was appointed by the President.

Efforts are under way to save the paper, but few are optimistic. This poses problems for the large number of allegedly nepotistic appointees on its staff, many of whom are children of former mandarins of the Christian Democrat party. *La Voce* also ceased publication this year.

Kasparov seeks to master chip

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TODAY in Cologne, Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion, will try to prove that computers have yet to catch up with human abilities in chess.

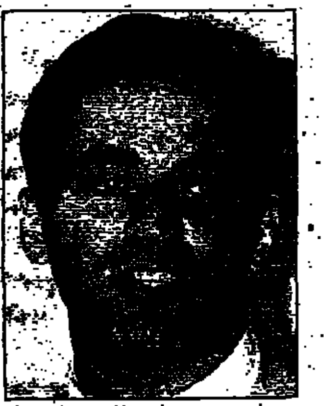
The game is billed as a grudge match in which Kasparov has vowed to take revenge on a computer program that has beaten him once. The Genius 2 program, written by Richard Lang, a British programmer, will today be loaded in a PC boasting a faster version of Intel's Pentium chip, making Kasparov's task harder.

After his defeat by the computer in a speed chess event in London last August, Kasparov complained that he had not been mentally prepared. His opportunity for revenge comes this afternoon in a Cologne television studio.

Chess grandmasters see the advance of the chip as a threat to all they hold most dear. "If a computer can beat the world champion, a computer can write all the best books in the world, can write the best plays, and can know everything about history and literature and people," Kasparov has said.

Experts also complain that Genius 2 does not play "beautiful" games, winning simply by its prodigious ability to analyse moves at very high speed. The Pentium chip can analyse more than 100,000 positions a second and is particularly ruthless in the endgame. When Kasparov lost to Genius 2 last year, he started by making condescending grimaces at its moves, but by the end was unable to keep up.

Another grandmaster beaten by the chip, Pedrag Nikolic, said: "It has no shame. It plays stupidly from time to time, but it doesn't care. It doesn't know." Nikolic believes the top players may have another couple of years before the machines take over. The world's top chess players will seem less masterful when they can be beaten regularly by a program retailing for less than £150.



Kasparov: unable to keep up with computer

THE TIMES

WIN A £20,000 TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

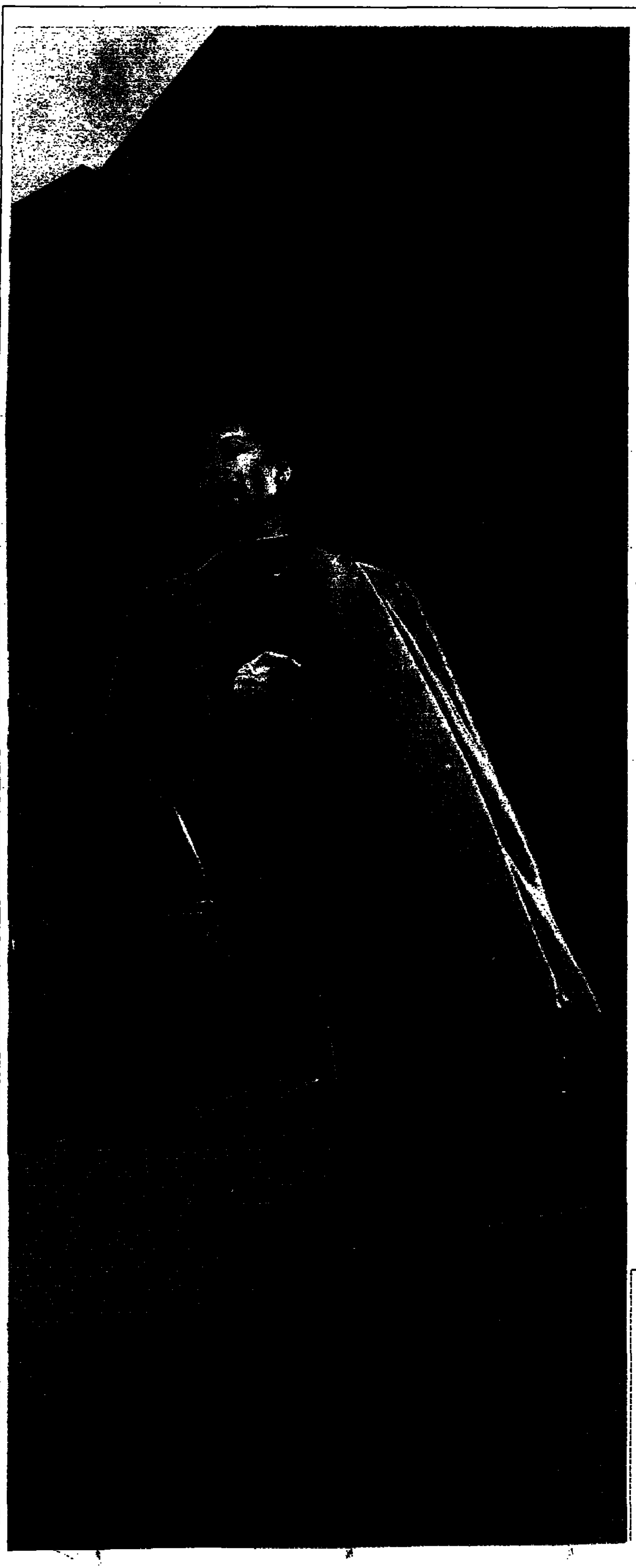
AN amazing 90-day once-in-a-lifetime trip around the world, worth £20,000, is being offered by *The Times* in association with Coca-Cola. The competition is open to full-time students aged between 18 and 26 on June 1, 1995. One student reader, and his or her partner (or friend), will travel and report their adventures to readers of *The Times* this summer.

The package, organised by Coca-Cola and STA Travel, includes all flights, accommodation and expenses for an unforgettable holiday to destinations in Europe, the Far East and America's West Coast. The prize gives the winner the resources to do something really different. To help, they will be given a Coca-Cola travel kit, which includes trainers, rucksacks, T-shirts, even mosquito spray.

TO ENTER

Collect four tokens from *The Times*. The first appeared on Monday and more appear daily until Saturday. Then write and tell us, in 250 words, about the most exciting discovery you have made on your travels and what made it so special. Send tokens and entry, giving your date of birth and place of study, to: *The Times*/Coca-Cola Global Refreshment Competition, PO Box 4037, Maida Hill Sorting Office, London W9 3TW. Closing date is July 1, 1995.

Judges will be Brian MacArthur, *The Times* Executive Features Editor, and representatives from Coca-Cola and STA Travel. They will look for strikingly original entries. Ten runners-up will each receive a travel kit.



"The only extra I thought about was the GTI. Fortunately, someone else thought about LTD with UNUM"

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Fleeing the feminist umbrella

Why should women have to be sisters, asks **Anne McElvoy**

With the prime invective of a hissing villainess in a Restoration comedy, Germaine Greer has replied to her fellow feminist, *The Guardian*'s Suzanne Moore, by attacking her mind, her clothes, her body, her make-up and, mystifyingly, her boots.

Moore says that this is "a cat-fight with only one cat", but the really important cat is out of the bag, namely the blithe notion that women are inherently kind or encouraging to their own sex.

The row has caused rare delight to those men who consider feminists only slightly less appealing than vampires. But why on earth should we be expected to be nice to other women? We may not all want to emulate the awfulness of some of the men we know, but it is our perfect right to be selfish or plain uninterested in the lot of women who work with us if we choose. No one sets such high hurdles of altruism for men.

It was, by any standards, an extraordinarily vivid and personal confrontation. But the falling out of two feminists, one the intellectual doyenne of the Sixties movement, the other a voice of the younger generation, may illuminate an ill-explored article of faith in feminist circles: that only lack of opportunity or inadequate influence in the workplace prevent women lending a helping hand to those following them on the career ladder.

The very language of the debate circumscribes its veracity. I have often heard (usually absent) women reproached by others for their "unsisterly" behaviour. Why on earth should any of us want to be sisterly to anyone who is not our sister, or at least a very good friend? It may be virtuous for a successful woman to help female newcomers in her firm, but it should not be a matter for censure if she does not. The word "sisterly" is particularly unhelpful, since it implies that women's conduct should be governed by bonds modelled on the biological family or some other trade union-like collectivity, rather than seek individual alliances based on mutual usefulness or liking.

Most of the all-women groups sprouting in the workplace, from Women in Journalism, which launches next month, to the small but redoutable Women in German Studies, take as an unquestioned principle the idea that the more women there are in a field, the easier others will find it to advance.

There is still a reluctance among women to acknowledge that they may be part of the problem as well as the solution. In professions where they are in a minority, the female élite will often jealously guard its rarity status out of vanity. It may even make good economic sense to do so, since many employers, once they are convinced of a woman's skills, prize her highly, and she may sense that the incursion of more women will dilute this exclusivity.

Others may feel resentful that younger colleagues have a much easier ride than they did, and be unable or unwilling to conceal it.

This does not mean that such enterprises are doomed to failure. Far from it: they offer their members what women are *really* short of — the opportunity to unwind in the company of their own sex and exchange experiences and advice.

But we should not shirk the difficult questions, or spurn a healthy dose of self-examination. My own, entirely personal finding, has been that men have been better career mentors than women. After writing this opinion last year, I faced a mail-bag of censorious letters from other women. They did not simply disagree with the sentiment, they stressed that it was (that wordagain) "unsisterly" of me to have said it, because it would make men even more smug than they are already.

There is a danger of feminism taking on some features of Marxism in that it tends to discourage frankness for the sake of The Cause. Criticise aspects of the theory or any women's organisation, and someone is bound to say that you are "playing into the hands of the chauvinists". In other words, keep quiet about your doubts, or stand accused of siding with the male enemy.

Men are often better mentors than women

The movement popularised itself in the Sixties by portraying itself as women's liberation. It would be a great shame if the version which triumphs at the end of the century were defined not by freedoms, but by restrictions, taboos and prudishness.

Greer believes that Moore's original comments about her are "an outward reflection of the low esteem which bedevils all women in our society".

But why should female disloyalty — if such it was — be put down to a lack of self-regard? We should not seek to explain away other women's behaviour as if they were fractious children playing up before bedtime.

Already, there are intimations that women are fleeing the feminist umbrella, not because they disagree with the broad sweep of the goals, but because they get enough restrictions, prickliness and self-censorship as things are, without going looking for more.

Anne Rafferty, the top barrister who beat a field of male candidates for the job of chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, has distanced herself from the championing of women's rights, despite having spoken eloquently of the burden of juggling a high-pressure job with motherhood. Television executive Janet Street-Porter this week took issue with the idea that there are not enough female role-models in the media.

These are great days for a barnstorming debate about the theory and practice of feminism and there are lots of women — and men — itching to join in. But unless the myths are laid to rest, many talented, practical and original women will eschew the fray altogether. That would be feminism's loss. Women, beware women.

Government or gun law? **Martin Fletcher** reports on the choice facing America's rebel riflemen

Showdown for the pistol-packers

Twenty-four thousand true believers arrived in the sun- and gun-soaked city of Phoenix, Arizona, yesterday for the annual convention of the National Rifle Association. It is one of the most hospitable venues the NRA could have chosen. Opposition to gun control is so strong in this desert state, where car "glove" compartments more usually hold pistols, that even proposals to put childproof locks on handguns are shot down.

The NRA is in need of a warm welcome right now. At a final preparatory meeting on Thursday night a senior official offered colleagues this advice on how to treat the descending army of journalists. "Consider these people to be lepers." The organisation is on the defensive, and with very good reason.

After last month's Oklahoma City bombing the media's attention naturally turned to those purveyors of hatred fomenting hostility towards the Government. The obvious culprit was talk radio but this time, it seemed, the NRA was in a league of its own.

In a fundraising letter mailed a week before Oklahoma the NRA called federal law enforcement agents "jack-booted government thugs" who wore "Nazi bucket helmets and storm trooper uniforms" and were out to "take away our constitutional rights, break in our doors, seize our guns, destroy our property and even injure and kill us". A March NRA advertisement called the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which regulates guns, a "rogue agency" that had declared war on gun-owners and deserved public contempt. The NRA's Internet message boards, Gun Talk and Bullet'n Board, carried a host of charming messages ranging from instructions on how to make bombs from baby-food jars to warnings of impending federal raids on the blossoming citizen militia movement and explanations of why the US Government was actually scarier than Hitler's Nazis.

The NRA's underlying message was obvious. Gun controls should be fought not for the sake of hunters and sportsmen, but so that American citizens can forcibly resist their Government. The NRA had crossed the line from being an tough-minded but legitimate pressure group to being an instrument of subversion and advocate of insurrection.

An "outraged" former President Bush resigned his life membership. President Clinton called to congratulate Mr Bush from Ukraine and said the NRA should be "ashamed". The organisation was raked by fire from the massed ranks of American punditry and the Secret Service even banned the NRA from its annual shooting competition.

Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice-president, belatedly apologised but he is merely the organisation's acceptable public face. The NRA has in fact been hijacked by a band of utterly uncompromising hardliners led by Neal Knox, another vice-president, and his protégé Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's chief lobbyist, whose agenda would probably horrify the overwhelming majority of members.

Mr Knox recently questioned whether the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King were part of a government conspiracy to disarm the American people. Ms Metaksa likes to say she spells her surname "A-K as in AK47, and S-A as in Semi-Automatic". She called the fundraising letter too mild.

It is hard to believe, but the NRA has for most of its life enjoyed the same sort of wholesome image as the Boy Scouts. It was founded after the Civil War by Union officers disturbed by their army's poor shooting skills. Its goal for nearly a century was to foster good marksmanship, and it actually helped to train the federal agents it now vilifies.

Only when the rising urban violence of the 1960s created pressure for gun controls did the NRA start to become a political organisation. The old guard of hunters, sportsmen and conservationists resisted, but they were routed by "Second Amendment fundamentalists", who turned the giant NRA into one of America's most feared and formidable lobbying organisations.

Homicide figures continued their inexorable rise, however. By 1992 an American was being killed by a bullet every 14 minutes. Of that year's 22,540 killings, 15,337 involved guns. Polls showed overwhelming support for firearm restrictions. In 1993 Congress passed the Brady Bill, imposing a waiting limit for handgun purchases, and last year banned 19 types of assault weapons. The NRA was like a "battered prize fighter with rubber legs", gloated Charles Schumer, a Democratic congressman.

The NRA is most dangerous when wounded. It responded with increasingly apocalyptic rhetoric that both exploited and inflamed public paranoia about government. It cast the battle against gun control as a battle for individual liberty, warning that the right to bear arms would be merely the first to go. "The final war has begun," said Mr LaPierre, and the strategy worked.

By establishing itself as the leading opponent of a tyrannical government and appealing to a new market of "leave us alone" extremists, the NRA drove its membership up to a record 3.4 million. With that extra clout it helped to elect a Republican Congress last November that promised to repeal the detested assault weapons ban. But just when it was on the verge of victory Oklahoma changed everything.

The NRA must decide this weekend whether to stay beyond the pale. To do so would make it hard for the Republicans to proceed with the repeal legislation, and could spark mass resignations by moderate members that the NRA, saddled with a $50 million debt from its recruitment drive, can ill-afford. It is also indisputably the case, as Robert Dole, the Senate leader, so euphemistically suggested, that the NRA badly needs "a little image-repair job".

Back in the last-chance saloon

By refusing to expose their affairs to the public eye, MPs are behaving like the worst kind of journalist

Simon Jenkins

Make no mistake, as they say. Members of Parliament are drinking in the "last-chance saloon". Listen to them on self-regulation in the House of Commons on Thursday. They were hypocritical, vain, narrow-minded, self-interested, pompous and careless of the absurd figures they cut in public. Leave us alone, they said. We can regulate our affairs, and the public interest insists we continue to do so. We don't need meddling outsiders. Buzz off, the lot of you. What is good for MPs is good for Britain. It is good because we say so and we embody Britain. Now shut up.

To this I offer. an unfashionable reply. Thank Heaven for the press. Without the press, there plainly would have been no cash-for-questions row. Without the press, there would have been no cash-for-amendments scandal. Without the press, nobody would have blown the whistle on the Paris Ritz, on select committee freebies, on money-for-honours, on secret Tory funds, on secret Labour funds. The press is the only real and effective Privileges Committee and Members' Interests Committee. These are paper tigers set up by MPs themselves. The committees did not touch the paid lobbying scandal or the party contributions scandal, despite their being common knowledge in Westminster for years. The Members' Interests Committee is about as effective as Papa Doc's Commission against Corruption. It deplores spitting and being rude to the boss, but it would never dream of meddling in "business".

Which is all a great relief. It turns out that MPs are not gods but ordinary professional people like the rest of us, like lawyers, doctors, academics, stockbrokers and journalists. There is only one difference. MPs claim the right to meddle in our affairs but deny our right to meddle in theirs. David Mellor tells journalists they are "drinking in the last-chance saloon" on privacy. Kenneth Baker tells teachers what set books should be read in schools. Iain Sproat says how many hours children should spend on games. Gillian Shephard presumes to know the quality of scholarship by her academic points system. Virginia Bottomley orders surgeons in and out of operating theatres. It is fun, playing about with other people's jobs. But when Lord Nolan turns his hosepipe on the smallest corner of Parliament's Augean stables, a pandemonium of self-righteousness breaks out. The press was the same after the Calcutt report and the barristers after the Mackay Green Papers.

John Major announced on Thursday that, rather than accept the Nolan report, he would set up a committee to look into its recommendations. Were the great Professor Parkinson alive he would be convulsed in mirth. When I heard news of the new committee hotfoot from Downing Street, I thought it was a joke in poor taste. Mr Major had enough trouble without such spoofs of his leadership technique. Truth proved stranger than satire. Here was a Parkinsonian gem, a real committee to look into a committee to look into a committee. Downing Street will bear any amount of ridicule if it can be saved from making a decision.

In the event, Thursday's Commons debate on self-regulation was a nadir of professional introversion. The report had been mild in the extreme. It had suggested a parliamentary version of the Press Complaints Commission, with some external oversight of MPs' behaviour on an advisory basis and greater disclosure of outside interests and pay. This was too much for some MPs. Those as diverse in allegiance as Tony Benn, Sir Edward Heath and Nicholas Budgen cried halt. Sir Edward accused Lord Nolan of lacking "worldliness". Sir Dudley Smith said he was "an overzealous headmaster".

Not gods, but ordinary people: the Commons at its worst (in 1893)

Two or three MPs said the solution lay in paying them more. Sir Giles Shaw said it would be a "travesty" if MPs had to reveal what outside interests were paying them how much. This was all an infringement of integrity, of trust, of democratic sovereignty. Yes, there might be "a few bad apples" and "isolated cases of misconduct", but Nolan's implication that they were all a "bunch of crooks", said Anthony Steen, was outrageous. As for Enoch Powell, he thundered from retirement in yesterday's *Times* that the integrity of Members of Parliament was and had to be a matter of personal honour, otherwise the House would no longer be a "chamber of gentlemen".

I used to try these arguments last year in lobbying against the external regulation of journalists. The Government should not throw out the baby of free speech with the tabloid bathwater. MPs roared with laughter. Pull the other one, they cried. The whole point of external regulation was not to curtail the "responsible journalist" but to root out the irresponsible. The point was to stop a great vocation being brought into disrepute. Quite so.

How to regulate a skilled occupation is a question as old as Hippocrates. Trust between a professional person and his client is based, as Mr Powell rightly implied, on the ability of that profession collectively to satisfy the public of its integrity. That demands internal self-discipline of both ethics and standards. Doctors must not abuse their patients; lawyers must not cheat their clients; journalists must not write lies. Where trust breaks down, as in many professions in America, tort litigation takes over and every dissatisfied customer sues for negligence. Most professions in Britain are now subject to some external regulation, if only by certification. The public expects it. Light-touch regulation is preferable to heavy-handed litigation.

The MPs' conceit, adumbrated by Mr Powell and others, is that Parliament must remain self-disciplining because it is the ultimate lawmaker. Parliament cannot be regulated by any superior authority since it is the highest authority in the land. To me this is a reversion of the 1688 settlement, an attempt to vest in Parliament the same "divine right" as the early Stuarts wished to vest in themselves. MPs do not expect exemption from the traffic laws. I have never been able to understand why they should be exempt from the laws of defamation "within the Palace of Westminster". Parliament is plainly lax in policing its ethics and monitoring its competence as a legislative and scrutinising assembly. As Nolan found, there is no longer the public trust which must underpin continued self-regulation.

There has been much hot air this week on the need to make MPs more professional, more full-time and less in pawn to outside sectional interests. I believe that this is wrong. Most MPs are entwined with outside interests. This gives them something constructive to do and puts money in their pockets. It enables important (and unimportant) interests to be represented in Parliament other than through surreptitious backstairs lobbying. Paid advocacy is not corrupt when it is openly declared, which is no more than what Nolan proposes.

Mr Major has now caved in to those MPs with an inflated idea of their professional status — or with something to hide. He has decided to appoint a group of senior parliamentarians to decide what to do with a report prepared by a group of senior parliamentarians.

The invitation to the press is now clear: hound every MP from here to Kingdom Come on sleaze, conflict of interest, consultancies and paid directorships, because the House of Commons will take no action unless you do. We cannot sue an MP for negligent legislation or defective cross-examination or wanton waste of public money. Sir Jerry Wiggin, of cash-for-amendments fame, is currently on a freebie with the Commons Agriculture Committee. This body apparently felt an overwhelming need to "investigate" South African farm produce, conveniently prior to the start of the Rugby World Cup. The Commons is never going to stop this sort of nonsense. A heavy and responsible duty thus falls to the press.

Running wild

FRESH AIR and exercise is the bracing regime for the young tykes at Britain's oldest boys' prep school. So to celebrate its 175th anniversary tomorrow, all 180 inmates of Eagle House, in Berkshire, will be ordered into their games kit to run a 40-mile course — whatever the weather.

The boys will start out from Hammersmith, where the school first opened in 1820, run to Wimbledon, where Eagle House was based between 1868 and 1886, then to its present premises at Sandhurst, adjacent to Wellington College, which it "feeds".

Few can expect to escape the challenge says Simon Carder, the Headmaster. "It would have to be a pretty life-and-death situation. We have a couple of boys unfit at the moment: one has his arm in a sling. But we hope virtually all of them can run at least part of the way." Appropriately, old boys include Sir Robert Scott, who led Manchester's bid for the Olympics.

The torch from the 1948 Olympics will be carried in relays during the day, with a boy aged four (from the pre-prep) assigned to run the final stretch up the school drive. He will be received by the chairman of the school governors, Sir Richard Buckley.

Training has been devilish keen, with boys making full use of Wellington's 40 acres to practise. "We have some very good runners," boasts Carder. "Governors and staff are also expected to do their bit. Personally, I think 100 metres is about my distance."

Good game

WHEN THE final whistle goes at Wembley at the end of the Cup Final this afternoon, David Meek, football correspondent of the *Manchester Evening News*, will file his last match report for the paper. He has been covering Manchester United for 37 years, since the previous correspondent was killed in the Munich air disaster in 1958.

Although he attempts to maintain balance in his coverage, Meek learnt early on that a local newspaper football reporter needs to be more partisan than others. "In the early 1960s United were well beaten by Newcastle United 6-1," he remembers. "The headline in the paper was to be 'United Get Six of the Best'. But the editor was a United fan and changed the headline before the paper was printed to 'United in Seven-Goal Thriller'."

Doing bird

THE LATEST chapter in the saga of the two ravens which ran riot at the Tower of London comes after their exile to a zoo in Wales. Their crimes and misdemeanours have been entered into the official record book of the Tower.

Under the so-called Tower Order there is a new entry recorded for Thursday, May 4: "Having spent the past few months in 'close arrest' in a specially constructed aviary to the south west of the White Tower for 'conduct unbecoming', Tower residents, ravens Hugine (male, Welsh Mountain Zoo 1983) and Jackie (female, Tower of London 1991) were removed from the Tower establishment, 'services no longer required (SNLR)'.

"Yeoman Raven Master David Cope transported both ravens to the Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay. Replacements will eventually be posted to the Tower as soon as suitable choices become available."

You knew I was an MP when you married me...

● *As muscles are flexed in preparation for South Africa's Rugby World Cup, a spot of one-upmanship comes from the French team. The three-quarter line turned up to practise at a prison field in Pretoria yesterday with shaven heads. Uniform baldness made for a good* esprit de corps, *explained manager Guy Laporte.*

Peace at last

CONNOTATIONS of one of the most notorious episodes in the history of witchcraft have finally got to a London church. Salem Baptist Church has changed its name to Kew Baptist Church.

"Salem is a lovely name, meaning peace, but it sounds old-fashioned," says one of the pastors. "Through Arthur Miller's great play *The Crucible* many people associate the name Salem with the town of Salem in the United States, which became notorious for hysterical witchcraft trials — the very opposite of what we stand for."

Teed off

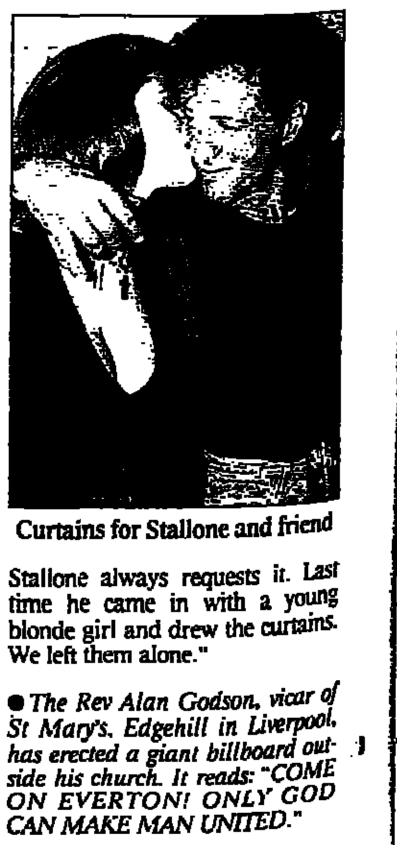
SIR ANTHONY Grant, a rare sort of Tory grandee who has clocked up 31 years in the Commons, did not display his customary competitive spirit at yesterday's parliamentary golf handicap championship, which he has brought home twice in previous years. (Our man, Philip Webster, won; MP Tim Yeo was third.)

Explaining his lacklustre performance to fellow competitors, Grant confided that he had just finished writing the resignation speech he was to deliver later to his South West Cambridgeshire constituents. He was preoccupied, says a fellow golfer. "I'm not sure that he had his mind entirely on the matter in hand. He was playing a longer game than we all realised."

Table mates

STAFF at a west London restaurant favoured by royalty have been snowed under with requests for a specific table after the current issue of *Tatler* pronounced it to be the ideal spot for discreet trysts.

Table G3 in Julie's restaurant, Notting Hill, is situated in an alcove with curtains. It is now booked solid for the next month. "We are happy to leave people for 20 minutes and not come back. They can do what they want behind the curtain," says Caroline Matthews, the restaurant's manager. "Sylvester Stallone always requests it. Last time he came in with a young blonde girl and drew the curtains. We left them alone."



Curtains for Stallone and friend

● *The Rev Alan Godson, vicar of St Mary's, Edgehill in Liverpool, has erected a giant billboard outside his church. It reads: "COME ON EVERTON! ONLY GOD CAN MAKE MAN UNITED."*

P·H·S

THE WAY WE LIVE NOW

Major should pay more attention to his favourite author

The Prime Minister is a devoted admirer of Anthony Trollope. After Thursday's miserable parliamentary debate on the Nolan report we recommend that in a quiet hour this weekend John Major pluck from his bookshelves a copy of the author's first Barsetshire novel, *The Warden*. It is one of the shortest novels Trollope wrote, and therefore will not detain Mr Major long from his official duties: but its rereading will reward him with some interesting insights into the present discontents. Trollope shows how easily shifts in public opinion can bewilder individuals in ancient institutions: how practices long taken for granted are suddenly deemed to be corrupt; how those who fail to keep their eyes open will find the earth has moved beneath their feet.

In *The Warden*, Hiram's Hospital, a 15th-century foundation attached to Barchester Cathedral, has long provided a charitable home for 12 old men, the beadsmen. The income of the foundation, however, has increased over the centuries and the wardenship, held by the kindly, conscientious incumbent, the Rev Septimus Harding, has become a handsome sinecure. In June 1851, when Trollope first became interested in the subject, the newspapers were full of the scandal caused by the apparently corrupt handling by Church officials of funds left in wills for charitable purposes. *The Times* (which appeared in the novel under the not very opaque alias of *The Jupiter*) led the charge.

Trollope, like so many well-meaning men and women in public life today, was torn between conflicting impulses. He undoubtedly supported the case for reforming the system. He detested the idea that charitable funds had become stipends for idle dignitaries: But he also resented the righteous indignation of the press towards the recipients of those funds who were in no way to blame for enjoying their privileges. The author appeals for a sense of proportion.

So it is that Mr Harding's son-in-law, the ardent, combative churchman, Archdeacon Grantly, is shown overzealously defending the privileges of the Church. The kindly Warden, however, appreciates the anomaly of his position, and conscientiously resigns his office. A reformer, the surgeon John Bold, who first informed the press of Harding's case (and who is incidentally in love with Harding's younger daughter Eleanor) is so distressed by the uproar that he gives up his campaign for a public accounting of the wardenship.

Thus ends Trollope's lesson, and so begins Mr Major's and Parliament's. Suddenly there has been a change in public opinion against some parliamentary practices. The attacks on Tories from across the floor of the House and in many newspapers may be self-serving, full of hyperbole and rightly offensive to those who believe they have done no wrong. Defence of parliamentary supremacy by such worthies as Messrs Powell, Heath and Benn is honourable and predictable.

But clever young Tories such as Alan Duncan should think twice before behaving like Archdeacon Grantly. They should admit that Nolan's call for an end to multiple lobbying consultancies, transparency of interests and parliamentary supervision of Parliament's practices is in no way the same as ending MPs' legitimate outside business interests and curbing parliamentary sovereignty.

The old gentlemen of the City have already had to learn that lesson. Until very recently insider trading was a skill and a respected way of life: suddenly it was not only illegal but morally unacceptable. For some the world was turned upside down; but in the City the world still goes on.

A sense of proportion, Prime Minister and Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen, is required. The times have changed. Be reasonable, Mr Duncan. Mr Major, after you have put back *The Warden* on your shelves, take courage and lead the way by defending Nolan.

THE WINCHESTER TWO

The Whiteheads of Brockenhurst should be freed without delay

Yesterday a judge sentenced a husband and wife, of previous good character, to prison for a total of six months for lying about a minor traffic offence. Even though they recanted within a week to the police, and even though they will leave behind three small children, Mr Justice Kennedy at Winchester Crown Court decreed that they should both serve custodial sentences. For those who believe that British justice sends too many people to jail, yesterday's events were a campaigning boon. For those who would like to believe in the common sense of judges, the decision was a simple embarrassment.

David and Patricia Whitehead were convicted of perverting the course of justice after he told the police that she, and not he, had been driving their car when a small traffic accident happened. He was worried, wrongly, that he might lose his licence, on which his job depended. She, a Scout leader, was persuaded to support his story. A week later, they decided to make a clean breast to the police. Instead of being saluted for their honesty, they were prosecuted.

After pleading guilty, Mr Whitehead was sentenced to four months in jail and his wife to two months. Their children, aged five, seven and nine, have no one to look after them. The result is that two people, by all accounts pillars of their community, who suffered a minor lapse in integrity which they subsequently corrected, are now being treated more severely than many muggers, fraudsters and burglars. And their children are being punished as painfully as their parents, if not more so.

Jail should be for violent criminals, for persistent offenders, and for perpetrators of what society deems to be serious crimes. It is there to protect the public, to exact retribution and to act as a deterrent. But it should be used as sparingly as possible: for in addition to its benefits, it costs the taxpayer dear, institutionalises and brutalises criminals and teaches them how to commit crimes more expertly. It is the most serious constraint on individual liberty that the State can impose. For that reason, it should not be treated lightly.

Prison's effect on separating criminals from their families should also be considered in mitigation. Children do not deserve to be punished for the crimes of their parents. It is bad enough for them to lose one parent to jail: to lose both is near insupportable. In any circumstance, jail should be used only in the last resort, when no other punishment seems adequate. To send two parents behind bars at once when children are young is cruelty in the extreme.

It can hardly be argued in this case that there was no alternative. Merely to be convicted of a crime is embarrassment enough for a normally law-abiding couple. A fine would have compounded the effect. Community service would have ensured that the offence would not have been repeated. The Whiteheads have learnt their lesson: they should be released on appeal without delay.

UP FOR THE CUP AGAIN

Football is more than bungs, fouls and violent millionaires

The Reds and the Blues are coming to Wembley — again. Euston, the M6 and the other northwestern approaches to London are receiving their annual Spring invasion. As so often, this afternoon's Cup Final is the day for the North West to strut its stuff and flaunt its scarves around London.

For the game itself, it is the day to flaunt its history, to recall how Manchester United have grown from the Newton Heath Lancashire and Yorkshire cricket and football club, founded by railway workers, to the biggest club in the world, with a membership of 100,000 from the opposite hemisphere as well as Manchester. Everton started as the St Domingo Church Sunday School Club in 1878, and reached their first Cup Final only 15 years later, which was not bad going for Sunday school boys. Manchester United did not win the final until 1909. But they have made up for it since.

Football may seem like a game played by buffaloes and governed by hippopotami. Manchester United's French superstar is coaching under a community service order instead of slicing through the wide green spaces of Wembley this afternoon. The Everton centre-forward may receive a medal from the Prince of Wales. But next Thursday he will be sentenced by Sheriff Alexander Eccles for his fourth conviction for assault.

With bungs for managers and more ingenious forms of creative accountancy in the boardroom, football has its dark side. This season English fans have been filmed rioting like apes. When millionaire stars are not fouling professionally or taking bribes to lose games or flogging tickets to corporate entertainment touts in suits, some snort cocaine while others scissors-kick spectators.

But football has, for the most part at least, become safer family entertainment. Better policing and closed-circuit television have helped, and all-seat stadiums have introduced identity cards by the back tunnel. At the same time football has recaptured the chic of the devil for the literati, as it briefly had when Freddy Ayer supported Spurs and Tony Crosland Grimsby Town in the Sixties. Nick Hornby and his peers find the same kind of excitement and beauty in the football stands that intellectuals such as Norman Mailer, Vernon Scannell and Joyce Carol Oates find from the ringside beside the bloody boxing ring.

In a difficult season the Football Association, with its new public relations department, has emerged with credit and even distinction; certainly with more pitch credibility than the old fellows who mishandle the Rugby Football Union. For today's Cup Final it has arranged for more tickets to go to fans than to club officials.

More than rugby, cricket or jogging, football has become the national game. It already is the world game, played with passion from Africa and Islam to America and China. It is the best game because it is cheap and easy to play, though not at the level on show at Wembley this afternoon. As the national game, football attracts villains and all sorts. But the tribal festival of the Cup Final is an honourable celebration of Englishness and the game England gave to the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Human nature, adultery and 'our promiscuous genes'

From Prebendary John Linford

Sir, I would warmly support Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, when he suggests (reports, May 17, 18) that the powerful sex drive of human beings is part of our genetic inheritance and as such is not sin but a God-given aspect of our human nature. But surely the same is true of our tendency to anger, jealousy, competitiveness and aggression; surely these too are instincts, or genetic characteristics, which were given to us to enable our species to survive.

If this is true, and I am sure it is, we must recognise that the Church needs radically to rethink the doctrines of original sin and the Fall, or to restate them in terms consistent with what we now know to be the truth.

It is not true that human beings once lived in a perfect state free from sin and that, by disobedience, they fell from that state of grace; nor is it true that they were created potentially perfect but that "something went wrong".

What is true is that human beings are in the painful position of being thinking animals: they have all the genetic inheritance of a species struggling to survive, but they also have the capacity to reflect and to realise that, in a state of civilisation, all these instincts need the firmest and most intelligent control.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LINFORD,
16 School Lane,
Hill Ridware,
Rugeley, Staffordshire.
May 18.

From Miss Olave D. G. Wade

Sir, As I understand your report of May 17, the Bishop of Edinburgh is proclaiming the obvious — that the sex drive is the Creator's chosen way of enabling the human race to continue in being — and pointing out that, as with so many other things, it can be used for good or abused for evil.

Simply to condemn adultery is negative. The Ten Commandments are positively concerned with relationships, with the Creator and with our fellow human beings.

The health and wellbeing of society depend fundamentally on good and honest relationships. Responsible parents teach their children the basic rules of health and hygiene; some positive teaching, given at the appropriate time, on the why and how of controlling our basic instincts will not only improve relationships within the immediate family circle but will benefit society as a whole.

The same positive approach to the rest of the commandments would be equally beneficial.

Yours faithfully,
OLAVE D. G. WADE,
327 Bath Road,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.
May 17.

From Mr Peter D. Ball

Sir, The arguments put forward by the Bishop of Edinburgh for a more compassionate and understanding attitude to the promiscuous appear to overlook the essential difference between promiscuity and adultery.

Promiscuity, provided the liaisons take place between two (or more?) consenting, legally non-barred, unattached individuals is behaviour personal to them and should be so viewed, whatever the serious dangers, not least to health.

Adultery entails the breaking of solemn promises given at the time of marriage, and should be condemned. Genes have nothing to do with it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. BALL,
127 Winchester Road,
Whitchurch, Hampshire.
May 18.

From Mrs Carol F. Lewis

Sir, When Christ saved the adulteress by inviting that member of the crowd who was without sin to cast the first stone He said: "Go and sin no more."

How can something which is not a sin cause so much pain and damage to others? If it is not a sin there can be no call on those who are damaged to forgive it. Where, then, is the healing that comes from forgiveness?

Yours faithfully,
CAROL F. LEWIS,
The Rectory,
Compton, Newbury, Berkshire.
May 17.

From the Reverend Andrew P. de Berry

Sir, Bishop Holloway is to be congratulated for daring to address the reality of our human proclivity towards promiscuity. Adulterers, or indeed divorcees, still find themselves marginalised by the Church, yet from my experience these people, if they can be coaxed into attending church, often prove the most supportive and tolerant in their Christian outlook.

It is one of the ironies of life that although the Christian is enjoined not to sin, the act of sin can perhaps enable us to learn to become more truthful about who we are.

Without a new openness for which the Bishop is pleading, the promiscuous will persist in the temptation to call upon the eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not be found out."

Yours,
ANDREW de BERRY,
The Vicarage, Southwell Road,
Thurgarton, Nottinghamshire.
May 17.

From Mr R. C. M. Cook, FRCS

Sir, Genetic studies are giving us ever more detailed knowledge of our make-up, but I am sure that it is misguided to cite "our promiscuous genes" and to re-use that older variety of pseudo-science, an "instinct deep in [our] subconscious".

Jesus, as usual, put the truth much more clearly: it is "out of the [human] heart" that all sorts of evil come (Matthew xv, 19). Unlike the Bishop's apparent approach, this does not leave us feeling reassured that our condition is "natural" and therefore acceptable.

Jesus did not rush to condemn individual sins; neither did He leave any possibility for us to feel comfortable with what we now are. Rather, He showed that the natural in us can be changed, and that He alone can replace the emptiness of a selfish life with the richness and real joy of a life dedicated to Him.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COOK,
26 North Road,
Grassendale Park, Liverpool 19.

From Mr George Medd

Sir, Surely the headline for the report on the Most Reverend Richard Holloway should have been: "Commandments discounted by 10 per cent."

Faithfully yours,
GEORGE MEDD,
Littlebourne Cottage,
Twyford, Hampshire.
May 17.

Role of Europe

From Mr James Pilditch

Sir, Mr Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, wants majority voting extended to include, among other things, foreign policy and home affairs (report, May 11).

Is there no end to this intrusion? If Mr Santer has his way, our elected Parliament, one that has taken hundreds of years to evolve our democracy, will be reduced to little more than a parish council, without much say.

We are being bustled along a path we don't want to take. Can nothing be done to stop it? Or are we simply to shrug as we watch the diminution of the free Britain we celebrated, so joyously and proudly, on the 50th anniversary of VE-Day?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PILDITCH,
Brookhampton House,
North Cadbury, Somerset.
May 13.

From Lord Deramore

Sir, The Foreign Secretary is reported (May 12) as having paid tribute to the European Union's role "in preserving the peace for 50 years".

The EU dates back to November 1993 and the original EEC treaty was signed in March 1957, when Germany was still divided and the Cold War a reality. The Cold War and threat of a Soviet attack justified the formation of Nato, which surely has more claim to credit for maintaining peace during the last 46 years since its formation in April 1949.

In the same speech Mr Hurd is quoted as saying: "We have influence in the EU." When has that so-called influence protected British interests against the majority of federalist states in the Union?

Yours truly,
DERAMORE,
Heslington House, Aislaby,
Pickering, North Yorkshire.

Defence force HQ

From Mr Clement Salaman, FRSA

Sir, You report (May 16) that the new Western European Union rapid reaction force for the Mediterranean region is to have its headquarters in Florence. Surely this is the last city in Europe where such headquarters should be placed.

Florence will become a prime target for terrorists and incalculable damage could be done to the Renaissance masterpieces contained in that city which are beyond price and impossible to replace.

How can such risks be taken with our cultural heritage?

Yours faithfully,
CLEMENT SALAMAN,
40 Bickerton Road, N19.
May 17.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Cash prizes

From Mr Ian A. Glendinning

Sir, If the total number of tickets bought in the National Lottery were to double, the jackpot would also double, and this is not the case for Premium Bonds. However, there is a vital difference between the chances in the two schemes.

In the National Lottery while your odds of winning a share in the jackpot stay the same, the number of people you are statistically likely to share this prize with also goes up with the total number of tickets sold, so the average payout to an individual for a winning line or one of the minor prizes does not go up.

Premium Bonds on the other hand have a fixed jackpot of £1 million, though your odds of getting it depend on the number of bonds in issue. The number of fixed-amount minor prizes increases with the total prize fund, so your odds for these prizes stay more or less constant.

Yours faithfully,
IAN A. GLENDINNING,
4 St Martins Drive, Eynsford, Kent.
May 17.

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, When the National Lottery was first established I became an immediate weekly adherent, partly because it seemed an exciting way of indulging in a comparatively harmless form of gambling, but also because I was attracted by the thought that a significant proportion of its retained receipts would go to charities and other really worthwhile good causes.

In view of the recent forecasts as to who will benefit, including the disposal of the Churchill papers, I have made up my mind to return my allegiance to Premium Bonds. Then if and when a winning number is drawn I can decide how much of my gambling gains should be subscribed to genuine charities.

Yours etc,
FREDERIC BENNETT,
4 Hale Court, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
May 17.

From Mr Geoff Cawte

Sir, I "invest" 42 hours per week (plus another seven travelling) in working for a definite £130 net. I therefore have absolutely no qualms in "investing" £1 per week in a possible £1 million or more.

Yours optimistically,
GEOFF CAWTE,
20 Northgate,
Newark, Nottinghamshire.
May 14.

Weekend Money letters, page 31

Arms sales

From Ms Sue Brown

Sir, It is disingenuous of Mr Locksley Ryan of British Aerospace (letter, May 12) to claim that his company has no choice in the countries to which it sells its products. As he points out, we live in a free democratic society.

Whilst companies require a government licence before they can export military goods abroad, they are not compelled to make those sales. The company, as well as the Government, must take responsibility for the results of its actions.

The world market for arms is declining and becoming increasingly competitive, and BAe has lost tens of thousands of workers, including skilled scientists and engineers, over the past five years — jobs which might have been saved if the company were willing to look at conversion to civil production.

While BAe refuses to look seriously at the alternatives to military production, its profits will continue to be earned, in certain countries, at the cost of many lives.

Yours sincerely,
SUE BROWN
(Joint Co-ordinator),
Campaign Against Arms Trade,
11 Goodwin Street, N4.
May 12.

Comings and goings

From Mr J. F. K. Hinde

Sir, "Up" suggests positive opportunity and "down" betokens burden (Mr Tommy Thompson's letter, May 15; other letters, May 13, 19). You could say it's up to me to write this and down to you to print it.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. K. HINDE,
Ryder House,
Copsem Lane, Esher, Surrey.

From Mrs C. M. Merriman

Sir, My 82-year-old mother has been concerned at often being required to "fill out" a form, when simply filling it "in" was quite adequate before.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE MERRIMAN,
98 Sandbourne Avenue, SW19.

Identity cards

From Mr Derek R. Markham

Sir, Matthew Parris (May 15) says he opposes identity cards because of the State's licence to be inefficient. It is not only the British citizen who may be tempted to stay one jump ahead of the law. On page 138 of his recently published book *Next Stop Execution*, the former double agent Oleg Gordievsky describes his early KGB training, and observes:

> Britain was regarded as particularly important, because documentation there was so lax: nobody was required to carry identity cards, and there was no central registration bureau … it was relatively simple to obtain a British passport.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK R. MARKHAM,
Windacre,
Enton, Godalming, Surrey.

Proper regard for Everest triumph

From Mr Roland Cherry

Sir, Congratulations to Alison Hargreaves in becoming the first woman to climb Everest solo, without oxygen and via the notorious North Ridge (report, May 15). In the light of your excellent leader on the same day, it was astonishing to read Nigella Lawson's rather pompous swipe at the neurotic, self-centred pursuit of the futile ("Noble impulse or just neurosis?", May 16), all this with the alleged disregard for her children's future, etc.

Ms Hargreaves's fortitude, skill and determination are an example to us in all walks of life. Climbing is all about evaluating risk, as indeed is life, and without risk there is no challenge.

It is rather trite to denigrate such a huge achievement by suggesting it is a selfish ego trip, for what is any kind of sporting ambition if not such?

Yours faithfully,
R. D. CHERRY,
2 Orchard Cottages,
Saddledon Street,
Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire.
May 17.

From Mr Nigel Spackman

Sir, Nigella Lawson's pairing of mountaineers with junkies, on the ground that, in her view, they both attempt to escape the "everyday here and nowness of life", shows a total lack of appreciation of what motivates mountaineers. While there may be an element of addiction in the response of the climber to the lure of the mountains, she is wrong to assume it is escapism.

Travelling to some of the most beautiful places in this world, and testing yourself against the difficulties which they impose, is to involve yourself in one part of the real world, just as is the challenge of coping in the overcrowded cities in which most of us live. Fortunately for those of us who enjoy the challenge of the mountains, it is not one which most people want to face.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SPACKMAN,
17 Lyndale Avenue, NW2.
May 16.

From Mr Victor Saunders

Sir, Nigella Lawson suggests that Jews don't go "schlepping up mountains". Tell that to Moses.

Perhaps the sentiment Ms Lawson should be trying to find, instead of excoriating Ms Hargreaves, is best expressed by the Frenchman, Jacques Lagarde, in 1911. Karl Blodig completed all the Alpine 4,000 m peaks, adding the last, the Aiguille du Jardin, at the age of 73, prompting the French expert to comment: "People do very great feats for very silly motives."

That statement sums up the contradiction not only of mountaineering but of life itself; it is also a key to some of the greatest moments of joy. Is not music a useless folly, painting, sport?

Yours truly,
VICTOR SAUNDERS,
Bamff, Alyth, Perthshire.
May 18.

From Ms Rachel Green

Sir, Maybe Alison Hargreaves did do it just for herself. I don't know. What I do know is that the risk undertaken was far more than a physical battle or a futile disregard for responsibility. It was a celebration of life that gave encouragement to many more people than just the two young children in her heart on the top of the world.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL GREEN,
43 St Faith's Road,
St Cross, Winchester, Hampshire.
May 17.

Welfare burden

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, "Sir Keith Joseph made a remarkably foolish speech in Brum where he attacked the working class for bearing so many stupid children", writes Julian Critchley ("After the landslide: the tattered Tories", May 13). This is the opposite of the truth.

In his 1974 speech Sir Keith drew attention to the progressive breakdown of the working-class family and the increase in single-parent families, headed by mothers who were variously unmarried, divorced or deserted, lacking the education, training, economic means and family support needed for maintaining and bringing up children alone.

The result, he prophesied, would be an increase in child poverty and the numbers of children in care, educationally subnormal, delinquents, criminals and homeless. It would also generate a crushing burden of welfare expenditure which obviated inflation-free growth. And so it has been.

Yours,
ALFRED SHERMAN,
14 Malvern Court,
Onslow Square, SW7.

Kitchen sink drama

From Mr David Stride

Sir, Your page 15 headline today, "Dead fish wash up in Sydney", made me rather envious of the menfolk of that city. Here in Kingston I find it is usually left to me.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STRIDE,
13 Brunswick Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.
May 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 19: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning arrived at Exeter St David's Station and were received by Major General Sir John Acland (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon) and the Mayor of Exeter (Mrs Margaret Midgeley).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove to Exeter University and were received by the Chancellor (Sir Rex Richards) and viewed an exhibition of the University's forty years since the conferral of the Charter in 1955 by The Queen and also viewed demonstrations from various faculties.

After visiting Streatham Court, escorted by Sir Geoffrey Holland (Vice-Chancellor), The Queen visited the Centre for Legal Practice in Amory Building and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited the School of Engineering and Kay Laboratories.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Devon County Show and were received by the President, Devon County Agricultural Association (Sir Ian Heathcoat-Amory, Bt).

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured the President with her presence at Luncheon on the President's Lawn.

Her Majesty afterwards presented The Prince of Wales's Award for Services to Agriculture and subsequently planted a commemorative tree.

The Duchess of Grafton, Mr Robin Janvrin and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

May 19: The Princess Royal this morning visited the Macmillan Palliative Care Unit, Evesham Community Hospital, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hereford and Worcester (Sir Thomas Dunne).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new headquarters of Southco Limited, Wainwright Road, Warndon, Worcester.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later attended the Birmingham City Appeal Meeting and Reception at the Council House, Victoria Street, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Mrs William Nunneley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 19: The Princess of Wales, President, this morning visited the Eating Disorders Unit, Department of Psychological Medicine, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London WC1.

May 19: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Northumberland and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northumberland (The Viscount Ridley).

In the morning His Royal Highness unveiled a Memorial in College Valley, Cheviot Hills, to commemorate the airmen who died in the Valley during World War II.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester opened the recycling plant of Alchema Limited, East Ord Industrial Estate, Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Merseyside and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

Her Royal Highness attended the launch of "Environment Week" at Shoreside Primary School, Ainsdale, and afterwards visited the Garden for the Blind and Disabled, Hesketh Park, Southport.

Later The Duchess of Gloucester visited Philips Components Ltd, Balmoral Drive, Southport.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Scottish Opera, this evening attended a performance of "The Marriage of Figaro" at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mr Tommy Dingwall, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

Royal engagements

Today
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, will attend the annual dinner of The Queen's Royal Hussars' Regimental Association, Mount Royal Hotel, at 7.30.

The Prince of Wales will attend the FA Cup Final at Wembley Stadium at 2.40. The Duke of Kent, as President of the Football Association, will also attend.

The Princess of Wales, as Colonel-in-Chief of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), will present new colours to the 2nd Battalion at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, at 10.45.

Tomorrow
The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend the Combined Cavalry Old Comrades parade and memorial service in Hyde Park at 11.05; and will attend a luncheon at Hyde Park Barracks at 12.45.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, will attend the regimental Remembrance Sunday service at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 3.00.

Prince Edward will visit the Ascot Locomotive Society's miniature railway at Ascot Racecourse, at 3.30.

The Duke of Kent will attend a performance of *Oh Malvina* at Freemason's Hall at 7.20.

School news

Charterhouse
The following have been recommended for election to:
Major Foundation Scholarships: 1. Gareth Williams, Hoe Bridge; 2. Timothy Melville, Charterhouse (Hillstone); 3. Zaki Abdulali, Elstree; 4. Ian MacAuslan, Dulwich College Prep School; 5. Alexander Hearn, Milbourne Lodge.
Foundation Scholarships: 6. Thomas Kelly, Hazelwood; 7. Dominic Carter, Milbourne Lodge; 8. Nicolas Gonzalez, Beechwood Park; 9. Jonathan Guyett, Caldicott; 10. Matthew Bailey, Aldro; 11. Roger Cattermole, Holmwood House.
Academic Exhibitions: 12. Siddarth Ramnani, Cottesmore; 13. Sholto Moger, Dulwich College Prep School; 14. Robin Raven, Parkside; 15. James Jackson, Cottesmore.
Benn Scholarship: Dominic Carter, Milbourne Lodge.
Peter Attenborough Scholarships: Richard Grindy, Aldro; John McInroy, St George's College, Weybridge.
The Sir William Blackstone Award (for the sons of lawyers): Lawrence Bernhard, Dulwich College Prep School.
Music Scholarships: Matthew Bailey, Aldro; Oliver Bayston, St George's School, Windsor; Richard Collins, The Pilgrims' School; Barnaby Crocker, The Cathedral School, Salisbury; Nicholas Hodsman, St George's School, Windsor; Timothy Shepherd, The Minster School, York.
Art Scholarships: Nicholas Evans, Dulwich College Prep School; Jeremy Curt, Amesbury.
Art Exhibitions: Sholto Moger, Dulwich College Prep School; Arnon Sakarl, Cottesmore.
For Sixth Form Entry
Peter Newton Scholarships: Kathryn Carlile, Southend High School for Girls; Timothy Harris, Oak Farm Community School, Farnborough; Vijay Luthra, George Abbot Secondary School, Guildford; Catriona Shields, Woolmer Hill School, Haslemere.
Sir Robert Birley Scholarships: Alison Bone, Convent of Notre Dame, Cobham; Helen Ingram, Tormead School, Guildford; Annabel Ward, James Allen's Girls' School, London.
Academic Exhibitions: 1 Yin Chen, Prior's Field School, Godalming; Ilona Prynne, Royal Naval School, Haslemere.
Music Scholarships: John James, Teddington School, Middlesex; Kate McCullagh, The Lady Eleanor Holles School, Hampton; Ryan Wigglesworth, King Edward VII School, Sheffield.

Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls
Speech Day will be at 2pm on Thursday, May 25, 1995. The guest speaker will be Miss Ceri Hutton, Director, Immunity Legal Centre, who is an Old Girl. Parents are also most welcome to visit classes during the working morning between 10am and noon. Open Day will be on Thursday, July 6, to which all parents and friends are invited. One feature of the day will be a Science, Technology and Industry Day, when Mrs Marie-Noelle Barton of WISE will address girls, parents and participating representatives of industry.

Memorial service

Mr Edmund Fisher
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Edmund Fisher was held on Thursday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated. Mr William Fisher and Mr Thomas Fisher, sons, read the lessons and Mrs Emily Fletcher, daughter, read an extract from a BBC Radio interview with her father by René Cutforth, recorded on August 28, 1956. Sir Gordon Brunton, Mrs Sophie Baker, Mr David de Peyer, Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign, and Ms Caroline Dawnay, a Director of Peters Fraser and Dunlop, gave addresses. Among those present were:

Mrs Fisher (widow), Miss Selina Fisher, Dr Clemency Fisher and Miss Anstice Fisher (sisters), Mr Alex Fisher (son-in-law), Milan Fisher, Mrs Ruth Fisher, Mr Richard Fisher, Mr Mark Fisher, Mr and Mrs Sam Fisher, Miss Jane Fisher, Mr Steven Hunt, Mr and Mrs Christopher Shaw, Judge Fisher, Mrs Anthea Fisher, Miss Molly Fisher, Miss Megan Fisher.

The Earl and Countess of Donoughmore, Lord Owen, CH, and Mrs Debbie Owen, Lord and Lady Ravensdale, the Hon Nicholas Hely-Hutchinson, the Hon Ralph Hely-Hutchinson, the Hon Tim Hely-Hutchinson, the Hon Virginia Bonham-Carter, the Hon Marius Mosley, the Hon Alan Gordon-Walker, Sir Nigel and Lady Seely, Sir Tobias Rodgers, Lady Brunton, Mr Joe Gannon and the Hon Catherine Eccles, Miss Victoria Barnsley, Mrs David de Peyer, Mr André Deutsch, Mr Peter Day, Mr Michael Hyde, Mr and Mrs Tom Rosenthal, Mr Ted Timberlake, Mrs Alice Harrap, Mr Anthony Foyle, Mrs Caroline Hobhouse, Mr Simon Master, Miss Sarah Litvinoff, Mr David Walker, Mr Bill Lear and Mrs Joyce Hopkirk, Mr Louis Baum, Ms Liz Calder.

Mr Graham Greene, Mr Michael Meyer, Mr and Mrs Michael Haines, Mr Dan Franklin, Mr Fred Newman, Mr Douglas Boyd, Ms Maggie Pringle, Ms Janet Street-Porter, Miss Gill Coleridge, Mrs Phillippa Harrison, Mr Hilary Rubinstein, Mr Sebastian Faulks, Mrs Julian Agnew, Mr Michael Parkin, Ms Naomi Lewis, Mr Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, Mrs Penelope Fitzgerald, Mr Roland Philipps, Professor and Mrs J Spence, Mr Gerald Bowden, Mr and Mrs Colin Webb, Mrs Meredith Daneman, Professor R A Hinde, Mrs Ursula Owen, Mr Brian Nicholson, Mr Philip Ray, Mr Patrick Janson-Smith, Mr Michael Balfour, Mr Will Atkinson, Miss Fiona Campbell, Ms Bud MacLennan, Miss Clare Loeffler.

Miss Rebecca Carter, Mr Kevin Burns, Mr and Mrs P Capel, Miss Valerie Reuben, Mr Martin Whittome, Mrs M Agnew, Amy Agnew, Georgina Agnew, Mr Kenneth Webb, Mr I Nabokov, Mr J W Cochrane, Mr and Mrs Martin Squires, Mr and Mrs P I Bellew, Mr Colin Frewin, Mrs Anne Tickner, Mr Michael Rainbird, Mr George Greenfield, Mr and Mrs Clive Unger-Hamilton, Ms Pamela Diz, Ms Jennifer Kavanagh, Ms Nann du Sautoy, Ms Felicity Rubinstein, Ms Sarah Lutyens, Mr and Mrs Andrew Best, Ms Deborah Rogers, Mr Jeremy Black, Miss Christine Green, Mr Andrew Hewson, Captain and Mrs David Morgan-Jones, Mr Charles Pick, Mr Rivers Scott, Mrs Gloria Ferris, Mr Miles Hutchinson, Miss Marilyn Warwick.

Miss Jenny Dereham and Mrs Susan Watt (Michael Joseph), Miss Jacqueline Korn and Mr Bruce Hunter (David Higham Associates), Mr Gillon Aitken and Mr Brian Stone (Aitken, Stone and Wylie) Miss Diana Mackay (Curtis Brown Group), Ms Ros Edwards (Faber and Faber), Ms Patricia Parkin (HarperCollins), Mr Grant McIntyre (John Murray), Ms Jane Blackstock and Mr Mike Petty (Victor Gollancz), Mr Christopher Maclehose (Harvill Press), Mrs Penelope Hoare (Sinclair-Stevenson), Mr Gordon Hinchcliffe (Rockhampton Press), Mr Gerald F Bowden (Magdalen Society, Oxford) and Mr Toby Eady (Toby Eady Associates) and many other colleagues and friends.

Weekend birthdays

Today
Mr Tim Albery, opera director, 43; Mr John Arkell, industrialist and former director of administration, BBC, 86; Mr David Ashcroft, former Headmaster, Cheltenham College, 75; General Sir Hugh Beach, 72; Sir David Berriman, former chairman, North East Thames Regional Health Authority, 67; Sir Robert Bunyard, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, 65; Sir Clifford Butler, former Vice-Chancellor, Loughborough University, 73; Mr H.T. Cadbury-Brown, architect, 82; Professor I.R. Cameron, Provost, University of Wales College of Medicine, Cardiff, 59; Sir Harry Campion, statistician, 90; the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, OM, ecclesiastical historian, 79; Cher, singer and actress, 49; Professor Richard Cobb, historian, 78; Flight-Lieutenant J.A. Cruickshank, VC, 75; Mr Lynn Davies, athlete, 53; Mr Greg Dyke, chairman and chief executive, Pearson Television, 48; Mr Keith Fletcher, cricketer, 51; Mr Nigel Griffiths, MP, 40; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir John Harrison, 74; Lord Hollick, 50; Mr Martin Honeysett, cartoonist and illustrator, 52; Mr Simon Keswick, chairman, Trafalgar House, 53; the Very Rev Professor John McIntyre, theologian, 79; Mr David Mayhew, a partner, Cazenove and Company, 55; Viscount Mills, 39; Mr Jeremy Nichols, Headmaster, Stowe School, 52; Miss Michèle Roberts, novelist, 46; Mr Peter Shore, MP, 71; Sir William Simpson, former trade unionist, 75; Earl Spencer, 31; Mr James Stewart, actor, 87; Sir Iain Vallance, chairman, BT, 52; Captain David Younger, Lord Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 56.

Mary Robinson, President of the Republic of Ireland, will be 51 tomorrow

Tomorrow
Dr J.V. Armitage, Principal, College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham, 63; Lord Clydesmuir, 78; Mr Malcolm Fraser, CH, former Australian Prime Minister, 65; Mr David Hunt, MP, 53; Mr Leonard Manasseh, architect, 79; Dr Leonard Mullins, rubber physicist, 77; Mr Dipak Nandy, founder-director, Runnymede Trust, 59; Mr Andrew Neil, former Editor, *The Sunday Times*, 46; Mr R.M. Peskin, chairman, Great Portland Estates, 51; Miss Rosalind Plowright, soprano, 46; Mr Harold Robbins, novelist, 79; Mr Nicolas Rogerson, chief executive, Dewe Rogerson Group, 52; Baron Guy de Rothschild, 86; Sir David Smith, President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 65; Mr R.R. Welch, silversmith, 66; Mr Desmond Wilcox, broadcaster, 64; the Right Rev Mark Wood, former Bishop of Ludlow, 76; Mr James Woodhouse, former Headmaster, Lancing College, 62.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: Pietro Bembo, cardinal and theologian, Venice, 1470; Honoré de Balzac, Tours, France, 1799; John Stuart Mill, philosopher and economist, London, 1806; Wladyslaw Sikorski, soldier, Prime Minister of Poland 1922-23, Prime Minister of the Polish Government in exile 1939-43, Tuszów, Narodawy, 1881; Faisal I, King of Iraq 1921-33, Taif, 1883; Margery Allingham, detective story writer, London, 1904.

DEATHS: Christopher Columbus, explorer, Valladolid, Spain, 1506; Marie Joseph, Marquis de Lafayette, soldier and statesman, Paris, 1834; Mary Lamb, writer, London, 1847; John Clare, the "Peasant Poet", Northampton, 1864; Clara Schumann, pianist and composer, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1896; Sir Max Beerbohm, writer and caricaturist, Rapallo, Italy, 1956; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Oxford, 1957; Dame Barbara Hepworth, sculptor, St Ives, Cornwall, 1975.

Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone for the Royal Albert Hall, 1867.

Income tax was declared unconstitutional in the United States, 1895.

Pan-American Airways began regular commercial flights between Europe and the US, 1939.

Guy Trebert was the first person to be arrested using an Identikit picture, Paris, 1959.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Albrecht Dürer, painter and engraver, Nuremberg, 1471; Alexander Pope, poet, London, 1688; Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, Norwich, 1780; Henri Rousseau, painter, Laval, France, 1844; Mikhail Sholokhov, novelist, Kruzhilin, Russia, 1905.

DEATHS: King Henry VI, reigned 1422-61 and 1470-71, murdered, London, 1471; Hieronymos Fabricius, surgeon and pioneer of embryology, Padua, 1619; Pieter Hooft, poet, The Hague, 1647; James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, Royalist, executed, Edinburgh, 1650; Robert Harley, 1st Earl of Oxford, statesman, London, 1724; Christopher Smart, poet, in a debtors' prison, 1771; Carl Scheele, chemist, Kopin, Sweden, 1786; Ronald Firbank, novelist, Rome, 1926; Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery, Prime Minister 1894-95, Epsom, 1929; Kenneth Clark, Baron Clark, art historian, Kent, 1983.

New Zealand was proclaimed a British colony, 1840.

The Manchester Ship Canal opened, 1894.

Charles Lindbergh arrived in Paris after flying from New York in 33½ hours, 1927.

Service dinners

RN College Greenwich
Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, Chairman of the Independent Committee for Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, was the principal guest at a ladies guest night dinner of the Royal Naval College Greenwich held yesterday at the college. Commander I.R. Wellesley-Harding, Commander of the College, presided.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards
Major-General R.W. Ward, Colonel of the 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, presided at the annual regimental dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

Ordnance Board
Mr Terry Morgan, Managing-Director of the Royal Ordnance division of British Aerospace Defence, and Mrs Morgan were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Ordnance Board Officers' Mess held last night at Deepcut. Rear-Admiral M.R. Thomas, Director-General Technical Services and President of the Ordnance Board, presided.

655 Squadron
Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Richard Folkes were the principal guests at the annual Anzio dinner of 655 (The Scottish Horse) Squadron Army Air Corps held last night at Alexander Barracks, Aldergrove. Major Christopher Hogan, Officer Commanding, presided.

Reception

HM Government
Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, QC, Lord Advocate, was the host yesterday at a reception held in Edinburgh Castle to mark the Faculty of Advocates' Biennial Weekend.

University news

Cambridge
Corpus Christi College
Elected into fellowships in Class B of Statute 31 from October 1:
Uradyn Erden Bulag, CC, for research in social anthropology; Achim Kempf, Karlsruhe and Munich, for research in physics; Mark P. Chadwick, Nottingham, as the Pfizer Research Fellow for research in gene therapy

Marriages

Mr C. Moore
and Miss H. Beckitt
The marriage took place on Monday, May 15, at St Mark's Church, Newport, Gwent, between Mr Christopher Moore, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Moore, of Claygate, Surrey, and Miss Hilary Beckitt, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Beckitt, of Newport, Gwent.

Mr D.J.C. Osborn
and Miss J.L. Hayes
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 6, 1995, in St Mary Magdalene Church, Leintwardine, Shropshire, of Mr Duncan Joseph Charles Osborn to Miss Joanna Louise Hayes.

Dinners

HM High Commissioner
Lady Fraser, Her Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Sir William Fraser yesterday arrived in Edinburgh to take up residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse and last night entertained the following at dinner:
The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh and Mrs Irons, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Mrs Simpson, the Secretary of State for Scotland and Mrs Lang, the Earl and Countess of Dundee, Lord Goold, the Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland and Mrs Morris, Professor and Mrs George McNicol, Mr and Mrs John Ross and the Principal Clerk of the Assembly and Dr Annie Weatherhead.

Farriers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, were the guests of honour at a dinner of the Farriers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Dr John Garnham, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor, Mrs D.M. Pagan, Renter Warden, and Mr J. McAllister also spoke.

Kent County Constabulary
The Secretary of State for the Home Department and Mrs Howard were the principal guests at the annual ladies night dinner of the Senior Officers' Mess of the Kent County Constabulary held last night at the Archbishop's Palace, Maidstone. Mr J.D. Phillips, Chief Constable of Kent, and Mrs Phillips received the guests.

Old Warwickian Association
Lord Justice Hutchison was the principal guest at the spring dinner of the Old Warwickian Association held last night at the House of Commons, by courtesy of Mr Harry Greenway, MP. Mr A.S. Hacking, QC, president, was in the chair.

Old Whitgiftian Association
The 100th annual dinner of the Old Whitgiftian Association was held last night in the House of Commons by courtesy of the Hon Michael Trend, MP. Dr C.A. Barnett, Headmaster of Whitgift School, South Croydon, and chairman of the association, presided.

Royal College of Radiologists
Professor Peter Armstrong, Warden of the Faculty of Clinical Radiology of the Royal College of Radiologists, gave a dinner last night at 38 Portland Place for members of the education board.

International Press Foundation
Lord Chalfont was the guest speaker at a dinner given by the Governors of the International Press Foundation last night at Armourers' Hall to mark the visit to the United Kingdom of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors for their 1995 congress. Mr Paul C. Hodgson, chairman of the foundation, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.N. Albrow
and Miss S.L.M. Robinson
The engagement is announced between Ross, son of Diane Albrow, of Maida Vale, London, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney Robinson, of Southport.

Mr M.J. Ball
and Miss G.M. Bishop
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr and Mrs David Ball, of Harewood, West Yorkshire, and Georgina Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Bishop, of Mawgan-in-Meneage, Helston, Cornwall.

Mr G.D.N. Barrowcliff
and Mlle I.M. Magne
The engagement is announced between Grégoire, son of Dr and Mrs Derek Barrowcliff, of Warwick, and Isabelle, daughter of M and Mme Loic Magne, of Lyon.

Mr J.M. Foreman
and Miss N.J. Hooper
The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Foreman, of Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Hooper, of Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Dr R.L. McAdie
and Miss R.E. Ranson
The marriage is to take place today, May 20, at All Saints Church, Ramsholt, Suffolk, with reception at Bawdsey Manor between Dr Robert McAdie, son of William and the late Denise McAdie, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Miss Emma Ranson, daughter of Rosaland and the late David Ranson, CB, OBE, of Holland Park, London.

Mr C.J.R. Orchard
and Miss L.L. Knight
The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place in August between Christopher James Richard Orchard, of 28 Wakefield Way, Aldwick Park, Bognor Regis, son of the late Mr Julian Orchard and of Miss Suzanne France, and Lorraine Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Knight, of 4 Robins Drive, Aldwick, West Sussex.

Mr T.J. Richman Gadoffre
and Mlle P.M.-C. Savary de Beauregard
The engagement is announced between Timothy, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Richman, of Hale, Cheshire, and Philippine, eldest daughter of Comte and Comtesse Savary de Beauregard, of Lyon, France.

Mr C.J.M. Skinner
and Miss L.F. Marriott
The engagement is announced between Jamie, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Skinner, of Lathrisk House, Falkland, Fife, and Fiona, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Marriott, of Dysserth Hall, Welshpool, Montgomeryshire.

Mr R.E.N. Stilwell
and Miss S.L. Wisson
The engagement is announced between Russell, son of Mr and Mrs L.G. Stilwell, of Worthing, West Sussex, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.W. Wisson, of Enfield, Middlesex.

Church services tomorrow

Fifth Sunday after Easter
ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Sung E, Wood: Phrygian Mode, Tallis Litany, The Provost; 6.30 Choral E, Purcell in G minor, Purcell: My Beloved Spake, The Provost.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in E, Easter Anthems (Shaw), Oculi omnium (Wood), Venerable J Barton; 4 Choral E, Responses (Byrd), Coll Reg (Howells), The Promise (Bairstow).
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11 Commemoration of Benefactors' Service; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Smith), Stanford in Bb, Like as the hart (Howells), Canon P Johnson.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30, 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Bennett), Alleluia (Taverner), Rev Dr M Chandler; 9.30 M (Nave); 3.15 E, Responses (Statham), Blair in B minor, Litany (Loosemore); 6.30 Compline, The Precentor.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F, Almighty God the fountain (Tomkins), The Dean; 3 E, Ayleward (Responses), My beloved spake (Purcell).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon C Sly; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F, Holy is the true light (Harris), The Provost; 6 Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Sumsion in G, Light out of darkness (Elgar), Rev R Cadman.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Thou visitest the earth (Greene), Responses (Ayleward), Rev Canon J Devereux; 11 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Lord this is thy feast (Thurlow), Captain A Perry; 3.30 E, Wood in D, Responses (Ayleward), O where shall wisdom be found? (Boyce).
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Haydn), Canon M Sadgrove; 5.30 E, And didst thou travel light (Shepherd), Responses (Byrd), Blair in B minor, Bring us O Lord (Harris).
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC, Darke in F, Ave verum corpus (Elgar), The Precentor; 10 M, The Lord's Prayer (Martin), Canon D Brown; 3.30 E, Magnificat quinti toni/Surrexit pastor bonus (Praetorius), 6.30 E.
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), O Sacrum Convivium (Messiaen), The Dean; 3.45 E, Coll [illegible]

[illegible] me an instrument of your peace (Rutter); 6.30 E, O sing unto the Lord (Harris), Prebendary Dr K Moss.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Civic, O sing joyfully (Batten), The Chaplain; 4 Choral E, Stanford in B flat, I was glad (Parry), Canon Chancellor.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozart), Jubilate for five voices (Weelkes), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Prebendary I Cook; 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), Stanford in G, O thou the central orb (Wood).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), The Chancellor; 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Teach me O Lord (Attwood); 3.45 E, Second Service (Byrd), O God thou art my God (Purcell), Responses (Ayleward), The Precentor.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch, Missa Bel Amfitrit (Lassus), Canon M Wolfe; 3 Choral E, Stanford in C, Canon D Hutton; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 H Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Parish Euch, Mr V Steele; 11 S Euch, Missa Bel' amfitrit' altera (Lassus), O most merciful O most bountiful (Bullock), The Dean; 12.15 H Euch; 3.30 Choral E, My beloved spake (Hadley); 6.30 E, Rev J Redvers.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP, 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The Dean; 3.30 Civic; 6.30 E, Canon N Proctor.
NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8, The Provost; 9.30, Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), I will not leave you comfortless (Byrd), The Provost; 3 RSPCA Thanksgiving service; 6, I will not leave you comfortless (Byrd), Responses (Rose), Stanford in A, Rise heart thy Lord is risen (Vaughan Williams).
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 11 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Ecce ego Joannes (Palestrina), O be joyful in the Lord (Britten), Ave verum (Byrd), Rev G Swinton; 3 Choral E, Brewer in D, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell), Rev Canon R Royle.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Chancellor; 10 S Euch, Ave Maria (Parsons), Canon A Neal; 3, Good News Celebration; 5.15 EP; 6.30 Evangelism Festival.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Rev M Walker; 11.30 M, Short Service (Gibbons), O most merciful (Bullock); 3 E, Moeran in D, [illegible]

(Bairstow), Canon C Semper; 3 E, Magnificat quinti toni (Praetorius), Nunc dimittis primi toni (Victoria), Die mit tranen saen (Schutz), Rev Dr J John; 6.30 ES, Canon D Hutt.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12.15, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Mass in D (Dvorak), Regina caeli (Howells), Pacan (Whitlock); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Ad coenam Agni providi (Victoria), Magnificat tertii toni (Malcolm).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Stanford), Rev C Stewart; 11.30 Euch, Versa est in luctum (Lobo); 3.30 E, Murrill in E, Give unto the Lord (Elgar), Rev Canon R Diss; 6.30 St Swithun's School E.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa de la Batalla Escoutez (Guerrero), Rev Canon P Marshall; 11.30 M, Sumsion in G, Responses (Ayleward); 4 E, Wesley in E, Lobet den Herren (Bach), Rev Canon L Stanbridge.
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Jackson in G, Oculi Omnium (Wood), The Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Moeran in D, The heavens are telling (Haydn).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Spatzen (Mozart), Beati Quorum (Stanford), Fr G Bradley.
ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, *Edinburgh*: 8 MS & HC, The Minister; 10 General Assembly Service, Awake the harp (Haydn), Rt Rev J Harkness; 11.30 MS & HC, Gloria in Excelsis (Leighton), The Minister, 8 ES, Rev J Cuthbertson.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Christi (Leighton), Jesus is the dark world's light (Bach), Rev M Saward; 3.15 E, Magnificat (Swayne), Responses (Smith), The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Rev D Gray.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Missa Ascendo ad Patrem, O clap your hands together (Gibbons), Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, Wood in E flat, God is gone up (Finzi), Dr C Rawll.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11, Mr D Turner; 6.30 Rev J Cook.
THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston St, W1: 11 SM, Communion Service in E (Darke).
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa l'hora passa (Viadana), Estote fortes in bello (Vittoria), Ave verum (Byrd).
[illegible]
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15; 6.30 Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ave Maria (Vittoria), O Maria Mater (Crivelli).
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Informal, T Stilwell; 5, 7.30 Informal C, Rev N Gumbel.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Assumpta est Maria (Palestrina), Ardens est cor meum (Victoria); 3.30 O sacrum convivium (Croce).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers, Rev P Schmiege.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M & HC, Short Service/Laetentur coeli (Byrd), Rev A Winter; 6.30 Choral Euch, Missa aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Rev A Winter.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Noble in B minor, English Gloria (Tomkins), Verata mea (Caldara), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Tomkins), Proclaim his triumph (Grier), Guild Chaplain W Boulton.
ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Darke in f, Ave verum corpus (Elgar).
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev Dr D Duncan; 6.30 Rev C MacLeod.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, *Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa* Brevis (Berkeley), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Prelude & Fugue in e minor (Buxtehude).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce), Rev G Watkins.
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E minor, To this temple (Bairstow), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Short Servie (Morley).
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family C, Sonata No 1 (Mendelssohn), Rev J Richardson; 6.30 EP, Rev J Meadway.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Simile est regnum coelorum (Victoria), O death where is thy sting (Handel), [illegible]
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Rise heart (Vaughan Williams), Rev D Welbourn.
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC, Rev J Pridmore; 9.45 Euch, Rev J Pridmore; 11.30 Visitors, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Canon G Reid; 6 E & B.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev J Overden; Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), With a voice of singing (Shaw); 6 Taize Service.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Little organ mass (Haydn), Hail gladdening light (Wood), Rev R Holloway.
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 S Euch, Mass for five voices (Berkeley), I got me flowers (Vaughan Williams), Neuvieme Prelude (Milhaud).
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Sancta Maria Mater Dei (Mozart), Canon C Colven.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses (Tomkins), First Service (Byrd), Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), Canon J Murphy.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon), Canon K Pound.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Smart in F, Litany (Loosemore); 3.30 Confirmation & Choral Euch, Darke in D, Come Holy Ghost the Maker (Davie), Rt Rev Dr D Hope.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), If ye be risen again with Christ (Gibbons).
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Gibbons; V Rev E Evans.
LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL, WC2A: 11.30 MP, A Gaelic Blessing (Rutter), Rev W Norman.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Rose), Laudamus (Leighton), Ireland in C, Rev A Scott
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, God is living God is here (Bach), [illegible]
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, [illegible] Rev C French.

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Hear, Israel: the Lord is our God, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6 : 4 (REB)

BIRTHS

[illegible]

DEATHS

[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM - WAR

[illegible]

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[illegible]

OBITUARIES

ALEXANDER GODUNOV

Alexander Godunov, former Bolshoi Ballet star and subsequently a Hollywood film actor, was found dead on May 18 at his home in Los Angeles aged 45. He was born on November 25, 1949.

WHEN the Russian dancer Alexander Godunov asked for asylum in America during the Bolshoi Ballet's New York season in 1979, a glittering career seemed to lie before him. His dancing with the Moscow company had met enthusiastic acclaim; not quite 30, he had an eye-catching appearance, a desire to succeed and the benefit of international publicity for the circumstances of his arrival in the West.

Joining American Ballet Theatre, he appeared to have found the right context for developing and widening his artistry. But a clash with Mikhail Baryshnikov, who became artistic director of the company a year later, led to Godunov's early departure. Thereupon he made what looked a highly promising start on a new career as an actor in films, but that too petered away, and little had been heard of him lately.

Alexander Godunov was born in 1949 on an island near Japan where his soldier father was stationed with the Red Army, but he grew up in Riga, whither his mother returned when he was one year old. His elder brother followed their mother into a career in engineering, but Alexander (his real name, Boris Godunov, was presumably thought inappropriate for stage use) attended the excellent local ballet school, where Baryshnikov, one year older, was a fellow pupil. Godunov reported that they both worried about being too small, but he later grew to more than six feet.

Baryshnikov moved to Leningrad and the Kirov Ballet, Godunov to Moscow, where his first engagement at 17 was with Igor Moiseyev's Young Ballet company. A year later, he was one of a small concert group sent to Cuba and Mexico, which attracted some publicity when two of the dancers decided to remain behind in America. In 1971, after three years with Moiseyev, he joined the Bolshoi, dancing his first leading role (*Swan Lake*, partnering Rimma Karelskaya) after only a month.

Alexander Godunov in American Ballet Theatre's *Swan Lake*

The following year the celebrated ballerina Maya Plisetskaya chose Godunov to share with the Bolshoi's senior leading men, Nikolai Fadeyechev, the role of Karenin in her new ballet *Anna Karenina*, and he soon succeeded Fadeyechev as her most usual partner, although also appearing with several other ballerinas, among them Marina Kondratieva, Ludmila Semenyaka and Nina Sorokina. In 1973 Godunov won the Gold Medal at the second Moscow International Dance competition.

His roles with the Bolshoi ranged from lyrical ballets such as *Les Sylphides* and *Giselle* to the comedy and bravura of *Don Quixote*. The Plisetskaya connection brought him Don José in *Carmen Suite* and the male lead in Roland Petit's *La Rose malade*. He also had the lead in Vera Boccadoro's *Love for Love* (which, in spite of its title, was based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*). Godunov himself thought he was particularly suited to a broad scale of expression and he was much admired in the heroic drama and virtuosity of *Spartacus*.

Godunov's flamboyant socialising with Americans during the Bolshoi Ballet's 1974 tour brought a temporary ban on further foreign engagements for four years but, after that, he was allowed to go to New York with a concert group and then with the full company a year later.

It was towards the end of their 1979 season at the Metropolitan Opera House that he requested, and was granted, asylum. Although the tour was to continue, his wife Ludmila Vlasova, a solo dancer, was quickly bundled onto a flight for Moscow, and there were worldwide headlines when the American authorities held the plane at Kennedy Airport for three full days until officials had satisfied themselves that she was going willingly. She later divorced him. Two other leading dancers, Leonid Koslov and his wife Valentina Koslova, followed Godunov into exile a month later, in Los Angeles.

Quickly joining American Ballet Theatre, Godunov enlarged his repetoire with roles in *La Bayadère*, *Raymonda* and — further from his past experience — José Limón's *The Moor's Pavane*. But when Baryshnikov became director a year later there proved to be not room enough for two such outsize personalities in the company (the American dancer Fernando Bujones found a similar problem) and Godunov was fired. He had his own television show for a while, but soon turned to Hollywood where he shared star billing with Harrison Ford in *The Witness* (playing an Amish farmer), appeared with Tom Hanks in *The Money Pit*, and was a notable villain in *Die Hard*. Rugged good looks, long fair hair and an imposing presence at first proved as much at home on screen as on stage. But then the big roles dried up; his most recent film was made in Hungary.

Godunov, who had a drinking problem in the past, had been receiving medical treatment lately but his death was unexpected. A nurse who regularly visited him became worried at not hearing anything for ten days, and found his body in the living room of the apartment where he lived alone.

ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

Elizabeth Montgomery, actress, died from cancer in Hollywood on May 18 aged 62. She was born there on April 15, 1933.

THE actress Elizabeth Montgomery starred in one of the most delightful children's comedy series of the 1960s, *Bewitched*. So charmingly did Montgomery play the witch Samantha that her career was scuppered once the series ended. To a whole generation, Montgomery could never be regarded seriously as anything but a witch.

Bewitched ran for eight years, beginning in 1964. It cast Montgomery as Samantha Stevens who surprises her husband Darrin on their wedding night by confessing to be a witch. Darrin, an advertising man and a plodding soul, begs her to stop using her magic powers but, goaded on by her unscrupulous mother Endora and later joined by an equally disruptive daughter Tabitha, Samantha simply cannot help herself. With one twitch of her elegant nose, flowers bloom, and whole rooms tidy themselves up in front of viewers' eyes. It was an enviable way to deal with the drudgery of housework.

Television trickery was brought to new heights for the series. Dick Albain, the special effects man, invented a remotely-controlled vacuum cleaner and suitcases which would pack and unpack themselves with the help of invisible wires. To make things "vanish", Montgomery learnt to "freeze" her hand while holding an object which would then be removed, and the intervening footage cut away. Hard as this was, she recalled, it was easier than scenes in which she was meant to clean the kitchen by witchcraft: "I sort of went 'Swoosh' with my arms raised, then had to leave them up in the air, aching, while the crew swept and dusted to get the kitchen immaculate before the scene resumed."

Elizabeth Montgomery had not not sought television stardom. Born in Hollywood, she came from the sort of acting stock that should have singled her out for a strong film career. Her father, Robert Montgomery, had partnered Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Myrna Loy and Greta Garbo on the screen, before becoming a director and then a public speaking adviser to Eisenhower. He was no sycophant and once, when refused a deserved salary increase by Louis B. Mayer, he turned to his studio boss and boomed: "If you were a younger man, Mr Mayer, I'd give you a beating." Her mother, Elizabeth Allen, was a leading lady with wide stage experience.

Montgomery made her television debut on her father's show, *Robert Montgomery Presents*, and, in true Hollywood style, had married and divorced her first husband, a television producer, by the age of 22. She made her screen debut the same year with *The Court Martial of Billy Mitchell* (1955), starring Gary Cooper. There followed *Johnny Cool*, a gangster thriller, and *Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed?*, a bedroom farce with Dean Martin (both 1963).

Hollywood seemed confused about what to do with her at this point. One moment she was being photographed in raunchy, Ann-Margret style pin-up poses, the next being talked about as the next Hitchcock girl, "ice cool on top and pressure-cooker hot underneath," as one critic feverishly wrote. In the event, she took her career into her own hands when, in 1964, she asked to be given the role of Samantha in *Bewitched*. Her third husband, William Asher, was directing the first 14 episodes, and she wanted to work with him.

She had no idea that the series would run for eight years. When it closed in 1972 she was a household name, but she was then confronted by a dearth of good parts in films — directors were reluctant to cast someone so singularly associated with one character. Instead, she was forced back on inferior made-for-television films and mini-series. These included *Dark Victory* (1975), about a woman dying from a brain tumour; *A Killing Affair* (1977), playing a woman police detective falling in love with her black partner; and *The Awakening Land* (1979), as a woman battling to survive on the Western frontier.

Meanwhile *Bewitched* was repeated continuously on both sides of the Atlantic, bringing her new generations of young followers. Besides her screen career, she was active on the Beverly Hills charity circuit, campaigning for animal welfare, gay rights and Aids — of which her *Bewitched* co-star, Dick Sargent, died last year.

She leaves her fourth husband, the actor Robert Foxworth, and three chidren.

ROBERT HARRIS

Robert Harris, actor, died on May 18 aged 95. He was born on March 28, 1900.

ROBERT HARRIS possessed one of the finest and most flexible voices in the British theatre; it was said of him that, when he spoke, there was music in the air. It was fitting, therefore, that much of his best work was done in Shakespeare — from Hamlet through Oberon to Richard II.

On the other hand, it was his misfortune to have too romantic a presence to fit easily into run-of-the-mill parts. Yet, before the Second World War, he was rarely out of work, playing in a long list of West End successes in the 1920s and the 1930s, including a comedy at the St Martin's called *The Wind and the Rain* in which he co-starred with Celia Johnson and which ran for more than two years.

Harris was educated at Sherborne and New College, Oxford. He then went straight to RADA, where in 1923 he won a Reandean scholarship (named after the theatre company of which Basil Dean was managing director). Securing this award meant that Harris did his early stage work under the baleful eye of Dean, who was not a tranquil figure but one who seldom stifled talent. At Christmas 1924 Dean cast him as Oberon in a famous Drury Lane revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. From that moment on his career took off. Over the next 16 years he was to appear in more than fifty roles, take part in two Old Vic seasons and make three visits to Broadway.

Among the plays he acted in were ones by John Galsworthy, Noël Coward and W. Somerset Maugham, playing Maurice Tabret in Maugham's *The Sacred Flame* in New York as early as 1928. Yet his most exciting season was probably that of 1931 when he joined the Old Vic-Sadler's Wells Company in September and over the next six months played Oberon (again), the Chorus in *Henry V*, Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar*, Feste in *Twelfth Night*, and Hamlet (a title role in which he alternated with Robert Speaight). His reward came in June 1932 when he was chosen by John Gielgud to play the Earl of Oxford in his production of *Richard of Bordeaux* in which Gielgud himself starred as Richard II.

His other commitments prevented Harris, though, from rejoining the company when the play was revived in February 1933, once again at the New Theatre, where it ran to great *réclame* for well over a year. Harris's own London marathon came later that same year in Merton Hodge's *The Wind and the Rain*, a much less substantial piece notable more for the length of its run than for anything else.

Celia Johnson and Robert Harris in *The Wind and the Rain*, 1933

At the Westminster Theatre towards the end of the decade Michael MacOwan cast him for such challenges as a modern-dress Troilus in *Troilus and Cressida*, Kublai (the Great Khan) in O'Neill's *Marco Millions*, and the Orestes figure in *Mourning Becomes Electra*. Then, during the "phoney war", he was Edgar in the Old Vic *King Lear* that Granville-Barker supervised. Later he had a wartime spell as an announcer with the Overseas Service of the BBC, based at Evesham. A colleague recalled that, given for a newsreel a sermon against the Nazis by the Bishop of Munster, Harris "made such a prodigiously sonorous job of it that he even produced his own echoes, as if he were speaking in a transept instead of from a second-best bedroom. It was great elocution."

After the war Sir Barry Jackson, in his Stratford-upon-Avon changes, enlisted Harris (1946-47) as head of the company in such parts as Richard II, Macbeth, and Faustus. A decade later (1957) he was back at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre as King John, and as Jaques in *As You Like It*. But by then his career was beginning to wind down — though he was to enjoy a bit of an Indian summer at the Old Vic from 1959 to 1961 when he played a number of supporting parts including John of Gaunt in *Richard II*, Peter Cauchon in *St Joan* and Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, along with one starring role as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.

The truth was that Harris was, in sense, an unlucky actor. The morning of his career had certainly been golden but, perhaps because of the war, its promise was never quite fulfilled. He effectively retired from the British stage almost 30 years ago, though he played occasionally in Canada afterwards and continued to make cameo appearances on television, notably as Old Jolyon in *The Forsyte Saga* and as the Spaeker of the Commons in *Edward and Mrs Simpson*.

Thanks to his voice, he also got a good deal of work as a radio actor. Apart from a modest success in *Love Among the Ruins*, a career in films never really developed — though that was probably as much a comment on the British film industry as on his own abilities. For the last several years he had lived at the retired actors' benevolent home in Northwood, Middlesex. He was unmarried.

TREVOR PARK

Trevor Park, Labour MP for South-East Derbyshire, 1964-70, died on April 6 aged 67. He was born on December 12, 1927.

WHEN Trevor Park, slightly built and prominently bespectacled, arrived at Westminster in 1964 few saw him as much more than the Workers' Educational Association lecturer he had been before he entered the Commons. The Government Whips' Office had studied his career, however, and thought differently. They saw trouble and they were right.

During Labour's 13 years in Opposition the Left of the party had organised to produce a haul of candidates who were duly elected in Wilson's first general election victory. Their right-wing colleagues described them disparagingly in later years as "the Heffer intake". Park was one of the most prominent and, intellectually, probably the most able. Successive Chief Whips were forced to acknowledge his abilities — and his intransigence.

For an apparently mild individual he proved to be a passionate orator when he wished. He had made an impression by his party conference speeches during the Gaitskellite years. He fought two hopeless seats, Altrincham and Sale in 1955 and Darwen in 1959, and his campaigning style was sufficient for him to be chosen in 1964 to fight South-East Derbyshire with a mouth-watering Tory majority of 12. Predictably, he captured the seat, though by only 873 votes.

His maiden speech set the tone for his parliamentary career. He attacked the Nassau agreement and disagreed violently with Wilson's nuclear policy. He was a constant critic of the Vietnam War, of Labour's incomes policy and, above all, of the *In Place of Strife* White Paper on trade union reform. Park was in the van of those who, with the covert support of Douglas Houghton, the PLP chairman, and James Callaghan, the Home Secretary and party treasurer, called Wilson's bluff in the summer of 1969 by successfully bringing into play the possibility of a government defeat on the Wilson-Castle plans to limit union power.

Park's political courage was one of his most attractive features. Despite his narrow victory in 1964 he refused to trim his views and was rewarded in 1966 with a majority of 5,496. Then, quixotically, he decided not to stand at the 1970 election. There was a feeling among his colleagues that he had no stomach for defeat and his seat certainly went to the Conservatives by 2,724.

But he obviously soon regretted his decision because subsequently he made a series of vigorous attempts to get nominated for seats all over Yorkshire. He was never selected again, however, though he had a second successful political career as a key member of Leeds City Council.

Park was the son of Lancashire textile workers and scholarships took him to Bury Grammar School and then to Manchester University. After graduating he became a grammar school master but, though an excellent teacher, his obvious desire to leave education for full-time politics at the first opportunity cost him any hope of promotion.

He switched to become a tutor and organiser for the Workers' Educational Association and an extramural lecturer at Sheffield University. After he left the Commons he returned to the WEA and went on to lecture at Leeds University.

He was married in 1953 to Barbara Black, who survives him. They had no children.

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ON THIS DAY

May 20, 1916

Petain's defiant Order of the Day to the hard-pressed French defenders of Verdun, "Courage, on les aura" had rung out a few weeks before this leading article appeared. In the end they did, but only many months later, when the battle for this key position had, according to Larousse, cost the lives of nearly 700,000 men, just over half of them German.

THE WAR SPIRIT OF FRANCE

The events in which we live are obscured by their own greatness. Not until peace has been restored will this generation know and feel how wonderful have been its achievements. Until our times the fate of empires and of people was decided by pitched battles, lost and won for the most part in a few terrible hours, and almost all, between the rising and the setting of the sun. Leipzig itself, the "battle of the nations," the most obstinate and murderous conflict of all the long Napoleonic campaigns, lasted but three days. Today a battle waged by immensely larger forces than the great EMPEROR ever marshalled for a stricken field, and with engines of death unthought of until now, has been raging at Verdun from February until mid-May. Never since history was written has it recorded a struggle so fierce and so determined. After full three months of slaughter, interrupted only by the exhaustion of the Germans until they could bring up fresh troops, it is still pursued with unabated resolution. The attack has been renewed with desperation during the last few days, but it continues to break down before the invincible firmness of the French. Fresh efforts are expected, but, whatever local results may be obtained the battle of Verdun has utterly disappointed the confident expectations of the German General Staff and has completely upset their carefully elaborated plans for the spring and summer campaign. They began the attack with the conviction that they could strike a decisive blow and inflict a crushing defeat on the French Army within four or five days. It was no mere assault upon a portion of the French lines. It was an attempt, made with all the force that Germany can command, to break through and to sweep triumphantly to Paris. That is proved not only by the evidence of the prisoners taken early in the battle, but by the immense preparations, including the construction of a whole system of railways behind their lines, which the Germans made to win it. And the plan did not relate to the West front alone. After victory on that side, the Germans hoped to concentrate the bulk of the armies against Russia and to overwhelm her without interruption from France. The whole combination has been shattered by the skill and the dogged valour of our glorious French Allies. They reeled for a moment under the terrific onslaught, but they speedily recovered themselves and made the vigorous counter-offensive which gave them time to organize the lines that have proved impregnable, and seem likely to prove impregnable, to all the might and all the fury of Germany.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

NEWS

Yard apology for £5m fraud

■ Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, issued a public apology yesterday for Scotland Yard's failure to stop its deputy finance director stealing more than £5 million from a secret account for undercover operations.

Anthony Williams began a 7½-year jail sentence after admitting milking the fund for eight years .... **Pages 1, 3**

Lawyers angered by jailing of parents

■ Lawyers and prison reform groups reacted with incredulity and anger yesterday after a businessman and his wife were parted from their three young sons when a judge jailed them for lying. The husband asked the wife to say that she was driving the family car after he collided with a motorcycle ....**Pages 1, 17**

New face at V&A

Dr Alan Borg, *director of the Imperial War Museum*, has been appointed to run the Victoria and Albert Museum............**Pages 1, 2**

Boycott threat

Labour made clear it would boycott a Commons select committee on the Nolan report unless it was restricted to implementing the recommendations in full .... **Page 2**

Sailor missing

A German sailor missing in the English Channel is believed to have jumped overboard when a comrade ran amok .... **Pages 4**

Right to roam

Kate Ashbrook, new Ramblers' Association chairman, has given "criminal" landowners notice of rough times ahead...........**Pages 5**

Nepotism claim

A private school faces a revolt after the owners appointed their son, who has no teaching qualifications, as headmaster.......... **Page 7**

Chealsea show time

An army of gardeners, builders and carpenters was yesterday putting the finishing touches to the Chelsea Flower Show, the annual grand illusion.................... **Page 8**

Squatters can stay

A judge has allowed squatters who took over a 16th-century mansion to stay because they carried out improvements to the house**Page 9**

Place in the sun

In the first year of South African democracy, increasing numbers of blacks have moved into better paid jobs and white suburbia ..**Page 12**

Belgian Right gains

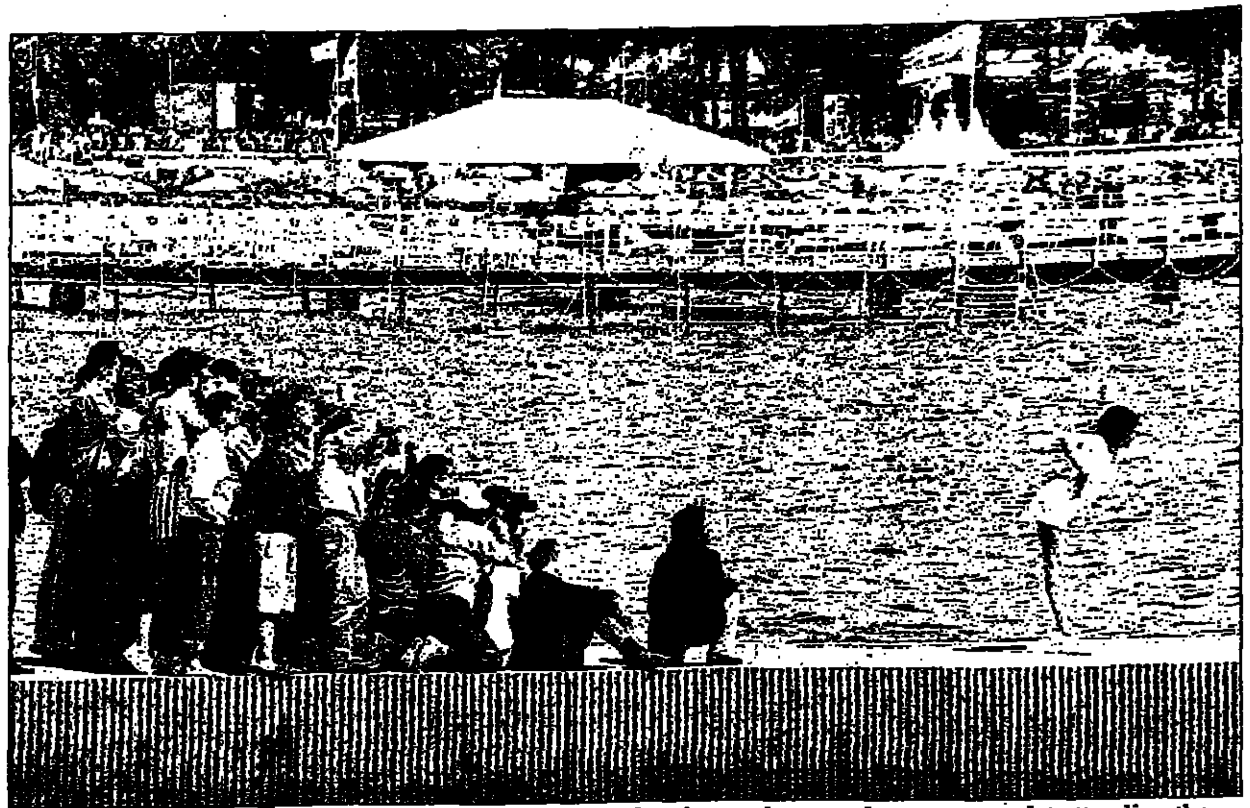
The extreme right-wing Vlaams Blok is expected to make significant gains in Belgiums general election tomorrow .... **Page 14**

Master chip

The world chess champion Garry Kasparov will try to prove that computers have yet to catch up with humans .... **Page 15**

FA Cup touts asking up to £1,000

■ Black-market ticket prices for the FA Cup final between Everton and Manchester United at Wembley today are at record levels. Touts were asking £700 for two £17 seats, with more expensive tickets going for £1,000 a pair .... **Page 1**



Cameramen crowd together on a pier on the French Reveira to photograph a young starlet attending the *48th Cannes Film* Festival. Dreamworld, page 9, and Weekend page 5

OPINION

The way we live now: After Thursday's miserable debate on the Nolan report we recommend that in a quiet hour this weekend Mr Major pluck from his bookshelves a copy of the first Barsetshire novel, *The Warden*.. **Page 17**

Up for the Cup again: Football has recaptured the chic of the devil for the literati, as it briefly had when Freddy Ayer supported Spurs and Tony Crosland Grimsby Town in the Sixties ...**Page 17**

PAPERS

Despite assurances that Ebola remains remote outside Zaire, the spread from Kikwit to nearby villages renews the question: How can global outbreaks be thwarted? — *Los Angeles Times*

COLUMNS

Martin Fletcher: 24,000 true believers arrived in the sun-and-gun-soaked city of Phoenix, Arizona, for the National Rifle Association convention. It is in need of a warm welcome right now .... **Page 16**

Simon Jenkins: MPs are not gods but ordinary professional people. There is only one difference. MPs claim the right to meddle in our affairs but deny our right to meddle in theirs .... **Page 16**

OBITUARIES

Alexander Godunov, Bolshoi Ballet star; **Trevor Park,** former Labour MP.. **Page 19**

LETTERS

Bishop's views on promiscuity; woman's conquest of Everest; cash prizes...... **Page 17**

BUSINESS

WH Smith: Shares fell 15 per cent after the newsagents warned investors of flagging sales because of competition from supermarkets.. **Page 22**

Building societies: Abbey National sweetened its formal £1.1 billion bid for National & Provincial Building Society by including incentives for staff for the first time........................... **Page 21**

Reject: Receivers were called in to the Reject Shop by its owners Upton & Southern .... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 24.8 points to close at 3261.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 85.1 to 84.9 after a rise from $1.5635 to $1.5735 but a fall from DM2.2824 to DM2.2674................ **Page 24**

SPORT

Football: Manchester United will seek to avoid finishing a season without a trophy for the first time in six years when they meet Everton in the FA Cup Final at Wembley this afternoon...... **Pages 38-40**

Cricket: Alan Wells, the Sussex batsman, and Peter Martin, the Lancashire fast bowler, have been selected for the Texaco Trophy one-day internationals against West Indies .... **Page 40**

Rugby union: Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are to form a joint company to conduct their affairs. **Page 38**

CARS 95

Mr Clean: Hugo Spowers tackles the tobacco giants with his anti-smoking F3 car the Extinguisher

SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Master of shock: Ginny Dougary meets the Formaldehyde Kid .... **Page 10**

Sporting colours: This week the Springbok team tries to show how rugby in South Africa has changed.. **Page 18**

Affairs of state: Did Thomas Jefferson have an affair with a slave? *David Robinson* on the romantic film that rekindles the controversy. **Page 26**

Duff House: Magnus Linklater explores the 18th-century stately home *turned* 20th-century gallery.. **Page 48**

Summer pleasures: A 36-page celebration of the pleasures *in store*, and the heady days of long ago .... **Page 53**

WEEKEND

Missed piggy: Paul Heiney on pig perfection and the sow who *should* be a *television* star.......................... **Pages 1.3**

School scandal: Richard Morrison argues that the Three Rs could sink the arts............................ **Page 5**

Fresh aria: John Higgins watches preparations for the new season at Glyndebourne............ **Page 5**

Books: Daniel Johnson on the greatly exaggerated death of the novel plus Julia Neuberger on building God's house.. **Pages 14, 15**

Travel: The art of France; short breaks to Morocco and Spain; Tunisia by camel.................... **Pages 18-23**

VISION

Personal journey: Martin Scorsese's guide to the cinema .... **Page 2**

Golden silent: John Ford's *The Iron Horse* rolls into town .... **Page 4**

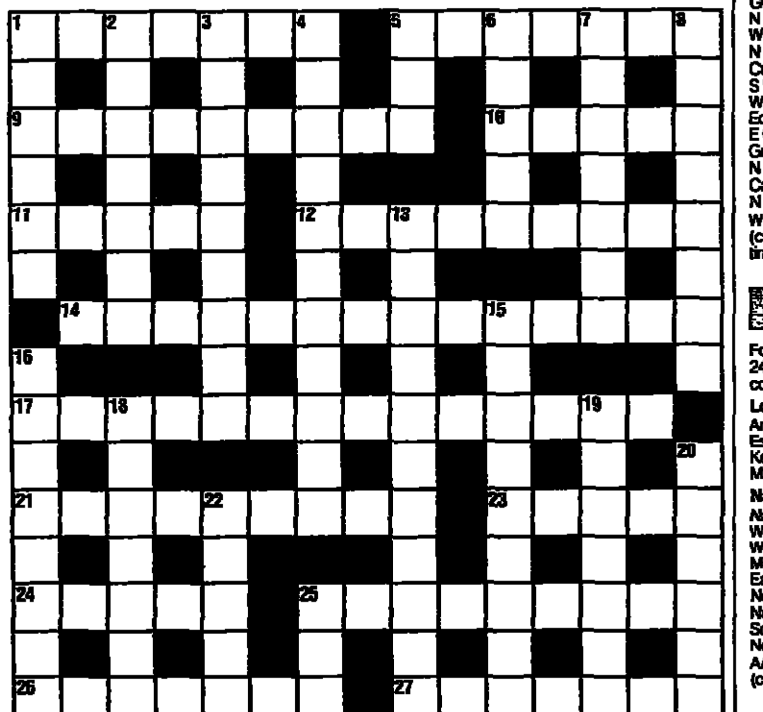
Not a league: *Fantasy World Cup Rugby* .... **Page 20**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,860

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 See me, put in pose by artist, turning into a goddess (7).
5 By the sound of it, little boy needs support in mathematics (7).
9 Trying to start off something, flusters dreadfully (9).
10 Going from side to side, a bird, native of Madagascar (5).
11 Regretting bringing defeat to head of government (5).
12 Where players shelter — and in summer time, moreover (9).
14 Lewes is the town for brewing drink (3,4,7).
17 Yearning to accept group's mercy (6-8).
21 Souvenirs of the war, hidden by girl, I found by chance (9).
23 Sally put on eastern outfit (5).
24 Accommodation in New York for a simpleton (5).
25 Bubbly girl almost onto a winner (9).
26 In public a number try too much (7).
27 Garden centre relocated in N Surrey (7).

DOWN

1 Dunce, or top of the class? (6).
2 Insect's name I note (7).
3 Song worms rendered when overcome by bryophytes? (4-5).
4 Peter's on the crest of a wave as a criminal (4-7).
5 In general, love is everything (3).
6 Finishing off painting, you will use this red (5).
7 High-flown language doctor takes pride in? On the contrary (7).
8 Cuts down the deployment of brigades (8).
13 "Non-stick" anticipates a profit from time to time (3,3,5).
15 Host forming ring round stronghold (9).
16 Bird making passionate love (8).
18 Man into decoration with English drapery (7).
19 Run in the Oaks finally, horse is caught by crossbreed (7).
20 Extremely stormy seas are rising fast (6).
22 Meeting to hear holy man (5).
25 Boatman stands up to be heard (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,859

B	A	R	Q	U	E	■	O	L	Y	M	P	I	A	N
L	■	E	■	N	■	I	■	E	■	U	■	R	■	O
U	N	D	R	E	S	S	■	I	N	S	T	A	N	T
F	■	O	■	M	■	I	■	C	■	T	■	N	■	E
F	O	U	R	P	O	S	T	E	R	■	K	I	N	D
N	■	N	■	H	■	■	■	S	■	C	■	A	■	■
E	N	D	W	A	Y	S	■	T	R	O	U	N	C	E
S	■	■	■	T	■	E	■	E	■	M	■	■	■	M
S	T	A	D	I	U	M	■	R	E	P	L	A	C	E
■	■	P	■	C	■	I	■	■	■	A	■	V	■	R
C	O	P	E	■	O	F	F	P	U	T	T	I	N	G
O	■	A	■	S	■	I	■	O	■	R	■	A	■	E
M	A	R	T	I	A	N	■	S	M	I	T	T	E	N
E	■	E	■	F	■	A	■	T	■	O	■	O	■	C
T	E	L	L	T	A	L	E	■	S	T	O	R	M	Y

Solution to Puzzle No 19,854

P	I	B	R	O	C	H	■	T	A	T	T	L	E	R
O	■	A	■	N	■	A	■	W	■	O	■	Y	■	E
F	U	N	G	I	■	R	E	A	P	P	O	I	N	T
A	■	G	■	C	■	L	■	I	■	H	■	N	■	I
C	H	A	M	E	L	E	O	N	■	A	R	G	O	N
E	■	L	■	■	■	Q	■	■	■	M	■	■	■	A
D	R	O	S	S	■	U	N	T	Y	P	I	C	A	L
■	■	R	■	A	■	I	■	R	■	E	■	A	■	■
P	N	E	U	M	O	N	I	A	■	R	E	L	I	C
O	■	■	■	W	■	■	■	N	■	■	■	V	■	U
T	A	B	L	E	■	M	A	S	O	C	H	I	S	T
H	■	A	■	L	■	I	■	C	■	O	■	N	■	L
E	A	S	T	L	Y	N	N	E	■	A	L	I	N	E
R	■	I	■	E	■	I	■	N	■	C	■	S	■	R
B	U	C	K	R	A	M	■	D	A	H	O	M	E	Y

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *M Braden, Harpenden, Herts; J S Longfield, Thirsk, N Yorkshire; P M Bulmer, Windermere, Cumbria; C C O'Brien, Armagh; M Sim, Edinburgh.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edn S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.03 am	Sun sets: 8.53 pm
Moon sets 11.18 am	Moon rises 1.02 am

Last quarter tomorrow

London 8.53 pm to 5.01 am
Bristol 9 02 pm to 5.11 am
Edinburgh 9.27 pm to 4.51 am
Manchester 9.10 pm to 5.00 am
Penzance 9.08 pm to 5.29 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 5.01 am	*Sun sets:* 8.54 pm
Moon sets *12.31 pm*	Moon rises 1.32 am

Last quarter today

London 8 54 pm to 5 00 am
Bristol 9.03 pm to 5.10 am
Edinburgh 9.29 pm to 4.49 am
Manchester 9.12 pm to 4.59 am
Penzance 9.10 pm to 5.28 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:41	6.98	5:55	6.59
Aberdeen	*5:15*	*3.92*	*6:05*	*3.76*
Avonmouth	11:08	11.87	11:30	11.68
Belfast	2:54	3.41	3:42	3.14
Cardiff	10.55	10.60	11:23	10.39
Devonport	9:56	4.96	10:10	5.08
Dover	2:45	6.26	3:11	6.27
Dublin	*3:19*	*4.11*	*4:14*	*3.80*
Falmouth	9:12	4.48	9:43	4.68
Glasgow	4:32	4.50	4:54	4.37
Harwich	3:32	3.94	3:48	3.72
Holyhead	1:57	5.43	2:40	4.95
Hull	10:00	7.06	10:49	6.61
Ilfracombe	9:54	8.42	10:22	8.40
King's Lynn	9:58	6.51	10:32	5.88
Leith	6:33	5.28	7:14	5.11
Liverpool	2:53	9.10	3:26	8.62
Lowestoft	1:24	2.29	1:14	2.35
Margate	3:52	4.61	4:03	4.46
Milford Haven	10.17	6.27	10:44	6.34
Newquay	9:05	6.02	9.32	6.04
Oban	9:29	3.12	10:09	3.35
Penzance	8:42	4.72	9.10	4.87
Portland	10:39	1.70	11:00	1.76
Portsmouth	3:01	4.49	3:42	4.53
Shoreham	2:52	5.81	3:28	5.80
Southampton	2:24	4.26	3:07	4.27
Swansea	10:16	8.66	10:44	8.60
Tees	7:39	5.13	8:25	4.96
W'ton-on-Nze	3.37	4.15	3:52	3.89

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Cardiff Weather Centre, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Prestatyn, Clwyd, 0.34in; highest sunshine: Tenby, Dyfed, 12.9hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** sunshine and showers. Much of southern England and South Wales will have a dry day with some sunshine, especially during the morning. Northern counties will be cloudy with occasional showery outbreaks.

Northern Ireland will start the day cloudy, but a little sunshine is expected through the afternoon.

Early showers over Scotland will become more scattered after midday. Most areas will be warmer.

☐ ***London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:*** mainly dry with sunny intervals. Wind west to northwest, light to moderate. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, W Midlands:** sunny intervals, becoming cloudy, mainly dry. Wind west to northwest, light to moderate. Max 14C *(57F)*.

☐ **E England, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N England, NE England:** cloudy with occasional showers. Wind west to northwest, moderate. *Max* 14C (56F).

☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** cloudy at first, brighter later. Wind westerly, light *to moderate. Max* 13C (55F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny intervals with showers dying out. Wind northwest, moderate. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals with showers dying out. Wind northwest, moderate to fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain will affect northern and western areas at times, but *southern and eastern England should* remain dry.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

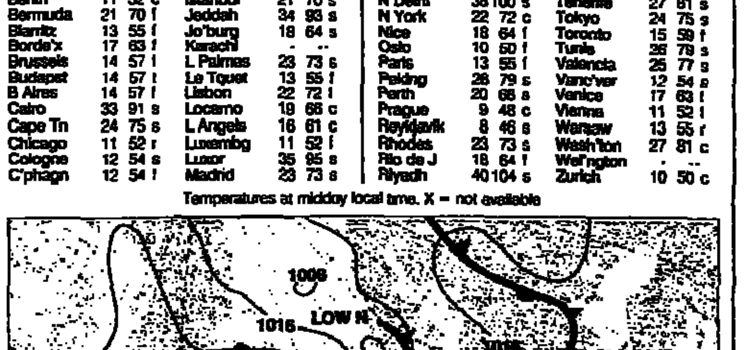
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.7	0.02	9	48	sh	Leuchars	4.7	0.03	11	52	sh
Anglesey	11.6	0.02	12	54	s	Littlehmptn	7.1	-	13	55	b
Aspatria	8.8	0.02	11	52	b	Liverpool	9.9	0.01	11	52	s
Aviemore	2.4	0.24	8	46	sh	London	5.9	-	13	55	b
Belfast	8.8	0.17	12	54	h	Lowestoft	6.4	0.28	10	50	r
Birmingham	8.6	-	13	55	s	Manchester	6.8	0.02	12	54	t
Bognor R	*7.8*	-	*14*	*57*	*b*	*Margate*	*1.8*	*0.01*	*10*	*50*	*b*
Bournem'th	7.2	-	14	57	b	Minehead	10.2	-	12	54	s
Bristol	4.2	-	13	55	b	Morecambe	10.7	0.06	11	52	s
Buxton	10.0	0.02	10	50	s	Newcastle	8.8	0.03	12	54	sh
Cardiff	8.0	-	12	54	s	Newquay	12.7	-	12	54	s
Clacton	2.1	0.07	10	50	sh	Norwich	6.2	0.11	12	54	s
Cleethorpes	9.0	0.12	13	55	sh	Penzance	10.9	0.01	14	57	s
Colwyn Bay	X					Plymouth	11.1	-	14	57	s
Cromer	6.3	0.29	10	50	s	Poole	9.5	-	14	57	s
Doncaster	9.2	0.01	13	55	s	Prestatyn	X	0.34	12	54	s
Dunbar	9.2	0.31	11	52	r	Ross-o-wye	6.2	-	13	55	s
Eastbourne	6.8	-	12	54	s	Ryde	7.0	0.04	14	57	sh
Edinburgh	5.2	0.09	12	54	sh	Salcombe	11.5	-	14	57	s
Eskdalemuir	*9.5*	*0.06*	*11*	52	sh	*Sandown*	*5.2*	-	*13*	55	*b*
Exmouth	10.2	0.01	13	55	h	Saunton Snd	10.5	-	12	54	s
Falmouth	X	-	14	57	s	Scarboro'	8.5	0.07	11	52	sh
Fishguard	12.2	-	11	52	s	Shanklin	6.8	0.06	12	54	sh
Folkestone	6.1	0.02	13	55	sh	Shrewsbury	9.0	0.01	14	57	sh
Glasgow	4.7	0.17	12	54	h	Skegness	6.9	0.12	11	52	sh
Guernsey	10.9	-	14	57	s	Southend	9.6		12	54	s
Hastings	X	0.02	12	54	c	Southport	10.3	0.04	11	52	s
Hayling I	5.3	0.02	13	55	b	Southsea	5.4	0.04	13	55	sh
Herne Bay	4.1	-	11	52	b	Stornoway	6.5	0.01	9	48	s
Hove	7.8	-	15	59	b	Teignmouth	11.7	-	14	57	s
Hunstanton	7.5	0.20	12	54	s	Tenby	12.9	-	13	55	s
Ilfracombe	1.0	-	1	34	du	Tiree	9.3	0.25	11	52	sh
Jersey	*8.9*	-	*13*	55	*s*	*Torquay*	*10.9*	-	*15*	*59*	*s*
Kinloss	7.4	0.12	10	50	b	Ventnor	7.0	0.03	12	54	sh
Leeds	10.5	-	14	57	s	Weymouth	9.0	-	14	57	s
Lerwick	8.5	0.01	7	45	h						

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

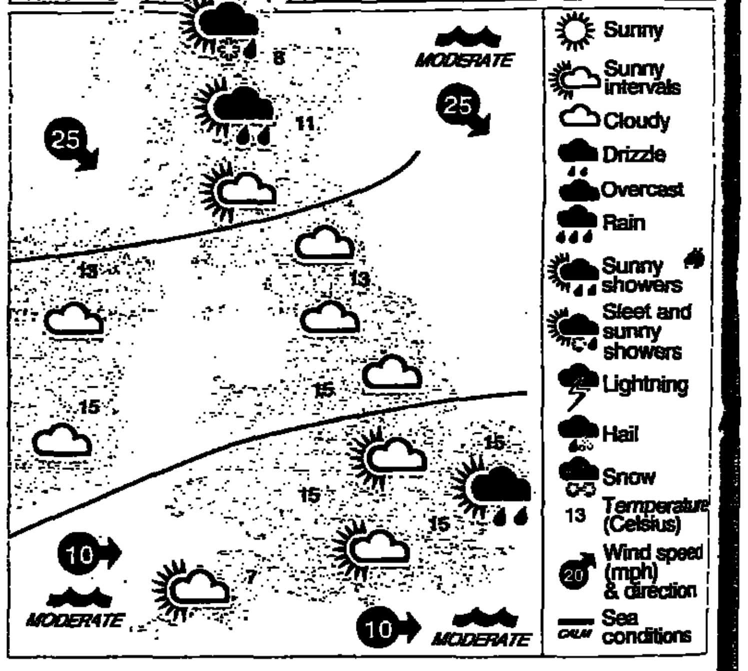
Ajaccio	19	66	s	Corfu	22	72	f	Majorca	23	73	f	Rome	20	68	f
Akrotiri	21	70	s	Dublin	13	55	f	Malaga	32	90	s	Salzburg	11	52	r
Alex'dria	33	91	s	Dubrovnik	16	61	f	Malta	28	82	s	S Frisco	16	61	s
Algiers	28	82	s	Faro	28	82	s	Melb'rne	14	57	s	Santiago	26	79	s
Amst'dm	*12*	*54*	*f*	*Florence*	*18*	*64*	*f*	*Mexico C*	*26*	*79*	*s*	*S Paulo*	*15*	*59*	*c*
Athens	23	73	s	Frankfurt	11	52	c	Miami	32	90	s	Seoul	26	79	f
Bahrain	34	93	s	Funchal	24	75	f	Milan	19	66	f	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	12	54	f	Montreal	13	55	f	St'kholm	11	52	s
Barbados	30	86	r	Gibraltar	29	84	s	Moscow	21	70	s	Strasb'rg	11	52	f
Barcelona	17	63	f	Helsinki	17	63	r	Munich	10	50	c	Sydney	19	66	s
Beirut	22	72	f	Hong K	30	86	f	Nairobi	21	70	c	Tangier	23	73	s
Belgrade	*16*	*61*	*r*	Innsbrck	*9*	48	c	Naples	*21*	*70*	f	Tel Aviv	*27*	*81*	s
Berlin	11	52	c	Istanbul	21	70	s	N Delhi	38	100	s	Tenerife	27	81	s
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	34	93	s	N York	22	72	c	Tokyo	24	75	s
Biarritz	13	55	f	Jo'burg	18	64	s	Nice	18	64	f	Toronto	15	59	f
Borde'x	17	63	f	Karachi	-	--		Oslo	10	50	f	Tunis	26	79	s
Brussels	14	57	f	L Palmas	23	73	s	Paris	13	55	f	Valencia	25	77	s
Budapest	14	57	t	Le Tquet	13	55	f	Peking	26	79	s	Vanc'ver	*12*	*54*	*s*
B Aires	14	57	f	Lisbon	22	72	f	Perth	20	68	s	Venice	*17*	*63*	f
Cairo	33	91	s	Locarno	19	66	c	Prague	9	48	c	Vienna	11	52	f
Cape Tn	24	75	s	L Angels	16	61	c	Reykjavik	8	46	s	Warsaw	13	55	r
Chicago	11	52	r	Luxembg	11	52	f	Rhodes	23	73	s	Wash'ton	27	81	c
Cologne	12	54	s	Luxor	35	95	s	Rio de J	18	64	f	Wel'ngton	-	--	
C'phagn	12	54	f	Madrid	23	73	s	Riyadh	40	104	s	Zurich	10	50	c

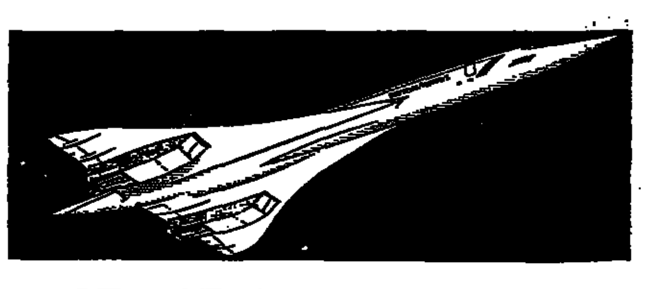
Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart from midday: high A moves eastwards towards northern Germany with pressure unchanged; low H moves into southern Scandinavia and fills; low W moves northeastwards towards Iceland, then becomes stationary and fills

NOON TODAY





QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July ● six night Land of the Midnight Sun cruise on QE2 via the North Cape to Trondheim ● SAS return to Heathrow £999
or £1,999 with two additional nights and Concorde

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July ● two night QE2 cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Concorde to Paris on 6 Sept. ● one night QE2 cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £999

TORONTO, RUSSIA, BARBADOS

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 4 Aug. or 16 Sept. ● five nights at the deluxe Sheraton ● harbour cruise ● Niagara with helicopter ● Phantom of the Opera ● luncheons ● Concorde supersonic return £1,999 or £2,699 for Toronto with Ryder Cup on 20 Sept.

Airbus to Nice on Fri, 30 June ● tour French Riviera ● two nights at the luxurious Mirabeau Hotel in Monte Carlo ● Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £699

BA 747 from Heathrow on 7 July ● three nights in Moscow and three in St. Petersburg ● overnight train, first class ● guided city tours ● Concorde supersonic return £1,299

Concorde between Heathrow and Barbados ● seven nights at Discovery Bay on 23 July or 26 Aug. £1,999

ORIANA AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde from Heathrow to Nice on 2 July ● six night Oriana cruise from Cannes to Southampton via Tarragona and Lisbon ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express from Victoria to Southampton on 8 July ● six night Oriana cruise to St Petersburg via Oslo and Copenhagen ● Concorde return to Heathrow £1,999

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Feeding the great and good at the Savoy Grill

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Ferguson's final chance to show his striking talent

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

ASADOUR GUZELIAN

Network news: delegates stroll across the rolling lawns of Harewood House, Leeds, at the first Yorkshire Business Conference yesterday

Housing market heads back into recession

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

MORE grim news for Britain's homeowners led to accusations from lenders and opposition MPs that the Government had abandoned its policy of extending owner occupation.

Three separate sets of economic data yesterday provided fresh evidence that the housing market is heading back into recession, while some City economists accused the Bank of England of constantly being too pessimistic on inflation.

The Building Societies Association said that net new mortgage commitments, an indication of loans in the pipeline, fell to £2.9 billion in April, compared with £3.6 billion the previous month. The April figure, which includes the Easter weekend, traditionally regarded as the start of the spring house-buying season, was 8 per cent down on a year ago.

The Inland Revenue yesterday revealed that the number of housing transactions for April, at 85,000, was the lowest figure for that month since records began in 1977.

In a crescendo of negative noises about the housing market, UBS, the City broker, halved its forecast for house prices this year, from an increase of 6 per cent to one of only 3 per cent. And on Monday night, Douglas Wood, NatWest Professor of banking and finance at Manchester Business School will tell BBC's *Panorama* programme that "house prices will continue to fall for the next 20 years".

Adrian Coles, director-general of the BSA, whose members account for 63 per cent of the mortgage market, said: "The continuing poor state of the mortgage market is exacerbated by the current economic environment. There is general concern over rising interest rates and continued falls in house prices, which add to uncertainty in spite of very strong affordability."

At the BSA's annual conference this week, Mr Coles accused the Government of turning its back on home ownership. He also said that the Government's belief that private mortgage protection insurance policies would fill the gap when the level of income support for homeowners who fall ill or are made redundant was cut in October was mistaken. Mr Coles is to meet Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, next Thursday, when he will urge the minister to shelve the cuts in income support.

On a more positive note, the BSA revealed yesterday that its 82 members attracted £868 million of savers' money in April, the highest for two years. The BBA said that total lending by leading British banking groups rose £1.64 billion in April, compared with March's increase of £1.08 billion.

There was positive evidence of borrowing across a broad range of industrial sectors, suggesting that investment is picking up. Personal borrowing was also strong, with consumer credit up strongly; a sign that either consumers are becoming more confident or there is "distressed borrowing".

Bank of England figures for M4 money supply, which includes lending by banks and building societies, rose 0.3 per cent in April and its year-on-year rate fell slightly to 5.4 per cent, from 5.5 per cent.

First UK business conference at a loss

By Colin Wright

MICHAEL FIRTH was a happy man yesterday, in spite of having lost more than £100,000 on his latest business venture. The £131,000-a-year chairman of Yorkshire Foods incurred the loss on the first Yorkshire Business Conference organised to bring together the corporate great and the good.

A former US Secretary of State, an astronaut, a general, an impressionist and the Black Dyke Mills Band were among those attracted to the grounds of Harewood House near Leeds by Mr Firth.

The gathering had been more than a year in the planning. Mr Firth needed to sell 2,000 tickets at £200 each to break even and fill the giant marquee, erected against the backdrop of one of Britain's most impressive stately homes.

Dr Henry Kissinger, Rory Bremner, Helen Sharman, Sir Peter de la Billière, Lord Healey and Maurice Saatchi, were among the speakers at one of the most impressive "networking" events ever staged in the region.

Mr Firth had been inspired by the business conferences in Bakersfield, US, where a succession of presidents have taken to the podium and where last year 13,500 delegates gathered.

About 1,300 people, among them the most influential and wealthy in Yorkshire, turned out at Harewood House yesterday. The shortfall on break even was 700 players.

Mr Firth, food magnate and native of Dewsbury, had insisted from the outset that he would personally make up any difference. In spite of the hefty bill, the brusque Yorkshireman was in ebullient mood, saying: "The feeling I and others are getting is that people like it. It is a success. There is a real buzz here. I'm prepared to subsidise this the first time . . . after that, it will have to be self-financing and I am sure it will be."

WEEKEND MONEY

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How to time your departure from Serps

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3261.0	(-24.8)
Yield	4.21%	
FT-SE A All share	1605.78	(-11.22)
Nikkei	16140.85	(-171.71)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4321.27	(-19.37)*
S&P Composite	517.44	(-2.14)*

Federal Funds	[illegible]%*	([illegible]%)
Long Bond	[illegible]*	([illegible])
Yield	6.92%*	(6.88%)

3-mth Interbank	[illegible]%	([illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	[illegible]	([illegible])

New York:		
$	1.5735*	(1.5778)
London:		
$	1.5735	(1.5830)
DM	2.2627	(2.2751)
FFr	8.0320	(8.0790)
SFr	1.8890	(1.9000)
Yen	136.50	(136.57)
£ Index	84.9	(85.1)

London:		
DM	1.4411*	(1.4405)
FFr	5.1045*	(5.1060)
SFr	1.1985*	(1.2020)
Yen	86.75*	(86.90)
$ Index	89.8	(90.5)

Tokyo close Yen 86.80

Brent 15-day (Aug) $18.10 ($18.05)

London close $383.25 ($382.95)

Denotes midday trading price

Shares bear up

Shares on the London market held up relatively well yesterday in spite of Thursday night's dramatic 80-point plunge in the Dow Jones industrial average. The FT-SE 100 index closed down 24.8 points at 3261.0. Dealers remained nervous, however.

Markets, page 24

Reject Shop goes into receivership

By Sarah Bagnall

THE Reject Shop, a familiar sight on the high street, has fallen into the hands of the receiver, owing £8 million, after crisis talks with its bankers failed.

The retail chain of 31 shops, which is focused on the South East and the first-time homebuyers' market, was acquired less than 18 months ago by Upton & Southern, the department store group, for £2.3 million.

Soon after changing hands, Uptons found that the chain was in a markedly worse shape than originally thought. A row erupted over an alleged £2.75 million shortfall in stock, and Uptons started legal proceedings against five former Reject Shop directors, which remains unresolved.

Eight weeks ago, Ron Trenter, former head of Texas Homecare, was brought in as chairman and swiftly afterwards Jeffrey Gould, chief executive, parted company with Uptons.

Mr Trenter said: "We intend to proceed with the legal action against the former directors."

The Reject Shop, which lost £1.1 million in the six months to January 29, had been trading at the limit of its overdraft for some time. National Westminster Bank is owed £4 million, of which a maximum of £500,000 has been guaranteed by Uptons. Mr Trenter said discussions were underway with the bank and other parties to raise further finance for Uptons to ensure its profitable department stores were not dragged down by Reject Shop's collapse.

Scott Barnes, at Grant Thornton, the receiver, said he was hopeful of selling The Reject Shop chain as a going concern, as the next rents were not payable until the end of June. Uptons shares fell ½p to 1½p.

Health insurers face check-up by OFT

By Caroline Merrell

THE Office of Fair Trading is to investigate the £1.5 billion health insurance business, fearing that consumers, being drawn into the market by National Health Service cutbacks, are not receiving value for money.

A second investigation was also announced into the controversial sale of travel insurance, often linked to the sale of package holidays.

The inquiry into the health insurance business will scrutinise the selling practices of groups such as Bupa and PPP and look at policies offered by life insurance companies, including Norwich Union.

The investigation will also embrace policies that pay out on diagnosis of a critical illness, providing income if a policyholder is unable to work through ill-health. Some sales of these policies are not covered by the Financial Servies Act. Sir Bryan Carsberg, who retired yesterday as Director-General of the OFT, said: "There is scope for mis-selling in this growing industry and we will be asking whether consumers are getting value for money and the appropriate products for their needs."

The OFT will look at whether private health contracts have hidden clauses and whether consumers are getting the payouts they expect.

The cost of private Medical insurance has risen steeply. The increase in the premium rate has far outstripped the rate of inflation. According to a report from Buck Consultants issued this week, costs have risen by 10 per cent a year over ten years.

Private medical insurers have been gradually whittling down the type of cover offered in an effort to keep down their costs. This will be one area of concern for the OFT.

Abbey National sweetens offer for N&P

By Robert Miller

Tugendhat: hostile bid

ABBEY National yesterday sweetened its formal £1.1 billion bid for National & Provincial Building Society by including incentives for staff for the first time.

The N&P received at least six firm bid proposals by last night's deadline. The contenders are understood to include the Alliance & Leicester and Nationwide. These two building societies have already held informal talks with each other about a possible merger.

All parties involved in the N&P bidding process have agreed to confidentiality.

Abbey National, whose chairman is Lord Tugendhat, put N&P into play last month by making what was seen as a hostile and unwelcome bid for the eighth-largest society, with net assets of £732 million. Once the approach became public, a number of potential bidders came forward.

The short Abbey statement issued yesterday said that the terms of its bid, which could lead to a payout of about £650 to each of the 1.7 million qualifying N&P members, remain confidential.

If necessary, it is understood that Peter Birch, chief executive of the Abbey, is prepared to raise his offer to about £1.2 billion. As part of the deal, it could be that N&P would keep its head office in Bradford and staff might be offered a financial incentive.

Alastair Lyons, chief executive of the N&P, said: "We have received a number of detailed proposals which we will look at carefully over the coming weeks."

The Alliance said: "It is no secret that we would consider a merger . . . but we are not commenting on whether we have made a bid for N&P." The Nationwide said: "Yes we are talking to other organisations, but we are not going to confirm that we have made a bid for N&P."

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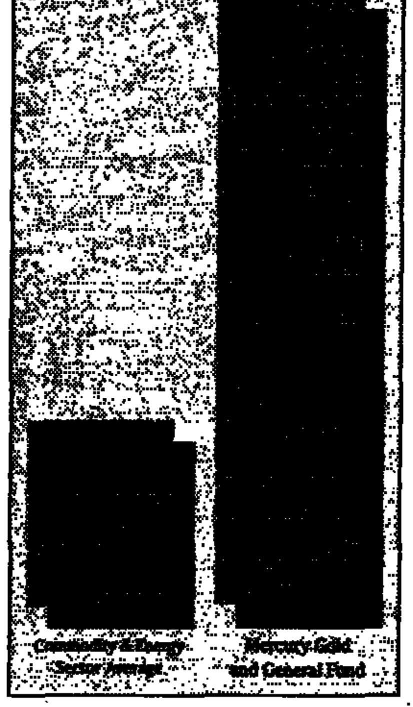

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The rise and fall of Littlechild's RPI-X

MELVYN MARCKUS

It would appear that the days of RPI-X, the price control formula used to regulate the UK's privatised utilities, are numbered. Ironically, Professor Stephen Littlechild, creator of RPI-X, has dealt the fatal blow.

Lord Lawson, reflecting on the privatisation of British Telecom in 1984, had some interesting *things to say about the origins of* RPI-X (inflation minus/plus an efficiency factor) in his autobiography *The View From No 11*. I quote: "The key element in the regime was the rule that the company could increase its charges each year by no more than RPI-X. This formula, which had been devised by Professor Stephen Littlechild, was orginally envisaged as a rough-and-ready short-term solution to the problem: but in practice it has endured ..."

Academics have bored for England on the superior incentive properties of RPI-X. Suffice to say that the directors of the regulated company know, for a pre-determined number of years, precisely what maximum level of *real* prices can be charged. There is, therefore, a clear target to aim at in view of the fact that the company is permitted to retain profits that result from restricting costs.

As Lawson points out, RPI-X was initially perceived as little more than a stop-gap, conceivably until regulation withered away under the heat of self-sustaining competition. This, should you not be familiar with the theme, is the sort of stuff that the Godfather of regulators, Professor Michael Beesley, his former pupil Littlechild and the likes of Clare Spottiswoode, who has appointed Beesley an adviser to Ofgas, presumably chat about at informal get togethers when such converts to the Austrian school of economics raise glasses to the work of Friedrich Von Hayek.

In the event, RPI-X has become institutionalised. Either competition has failed to develop or RPI-X has been applied to industries, such as water, where competition is unlikely to develop. In view of the Government's desire to maximise privatisation receipts, it can safely be assumed that, when originally set, X is soft. But what of new and improved X? Alas, this requires almost superhuman prescience on the part of the regulator who is left to anticipate myriad factors to determine a fixed X which will share efficiency gains fairly between shareholders and consumers.

New and improved X has invariably attracted controversy, the regulatory world being understandably light on superhuman prescience. Paradoxically, it was Littlechild, the Director-General of Offer, who blew his own formula apart with his controversial review of price controls on the RECs' distribution operations last August. Overwhelmed by £500 million of "new information", courtesy of Northern Electric's cash-rich defence against Trafalgar House's abortive £1.2 billion takeover bid, Littlechild acknowledged the need to review his review.

This admission of error by Professor Beesley's star pupil has proved devastating. If the inventor of the system cannot get it right, who can?

Thus the search for a successor to RPI-X is under way. At a recent Fabian seminar, *The Future of UK Energy Policy*, Ms Spottiswoode, Director-General of Ofgas, stated: "The problem for a regulator is getting the X right up to six years in advance to provide that fair share [of productivity gains for consumers]. There RPI-X is a high risk, high reward option for the company, but zero risk for the consumer who gains by a fixed amount (X) every year. We will be looking at whether this is the right approach for our review of both the distribution and supply price controls which we will be setting around a year from now and will come into operation in April 1997."

Meanwhile, an alternative has been proposed by Philip Burns and Ralph Turvey of the Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries (CRI) and Thomas Weyman-Jones of Loughborough University in a paper entitled *Sliding Scale Regulation of Monopoly Enterprises*.

This, to all intents and purposes, reappraises and updates the sliding scale system of regulation which applied to gas companies between 1875 and 1939. It would appear that if dividends increased at more than a predetermined rate then prices had to decrease in line with a similarly predetermined ratio or scale. The effect of the ratio was that some of the efficiency gains, which brought about dividend increases to shareholders, were automatically shared with consumers in the form of lower prices. Because the ratio was predetermined, the sliding scale system enjoyed the same incentive properties as RPI-X. The paper also applies the sliding scale system beyond dividend control to explore a price-related profit levy.

Jack Cunningham, Shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Inudstry, delivered some pithy thoughts on the subject at last week's conference on Regulation of the Utilities, organised by the Institute of Public Policy Research. In his words: " I do not think the present system of utility regulation in this country is satisfactory. The RPI-X price capping formula, which lies at the heart of the current system, demonstrates very clearly how present regulation gives very little weight to considerations of equity in the mistaken view that equity must always be traded off against efficiency. This, indeed, accounts for the fundamental instability of the present regulatory framework."

He added: "A good price-setting formula, in my view, is one which is fair to both consumers and producers, encourages an efficient use of resources, and is clear and transparent. The RPI-X formula does not in practice attain any of these criteria. It is not a fair rule, it does not encourage an efficient use of resources, and it is not, in fact, transparent."

It seems that Littlechild is even more out of favour with the Opposition than he is with the Government.

Brierley sells stake in Alvis

SIR Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, yesterday sold his near-30 per cent stake in Alvis, the defence equipment manufacturer, taking advantage of a sharp rise in the company's share price.

Sir Ron's 16.6 million shares were placed with institutional investors at 94½p. The shares, which traded at just 44p at the start of February, closed at 103p, up 7p on the day.

Alvis yesterday reported profits of £1.8 million before tax in the six months to the end of March, compared with £940,000 in the first half of the previous year. Earnings were 0.9p a share, compared with a loss of 0.5p. The interim dividend is 0.75p a share, up from 0.5p, payable September 4. Alvis's year-end net cash position was £25 million. Tempus, page 24

WH Smith slides on profit warning

By Sarah Bagnall

SHARES of WH Smith tumbled 65p, or almost 16 per cent, to 351p yesterday as the UK's largest retailer of books, videos and stationery, issued a surprise profits warning.

The retailer gave warning that full-year profits would fail to match market expectations because of flagging sales in its 450 WH Smith high street stores.

The chain has been hit by competition from the supermarkets, a rapid increase in competitor space and the general depressed state of consumer confidence.

The group said that profits before tax and exceptionals in the 53 weeks to June 3 is likely to be £115 million (£124.8 million). Analysts had been looking for between £128 million and £142 million. Analysts also cut their forecasts for the year to June 3 next year by about £23 million to between £115 million and £130 million. The warning, which wiped more than £180 million off WH Smith's market capitalisation, hit rival stocks as analysts expressed concerns that part of the problem could be market-wide. Shares of Kingfisher, owner of Woolworths, fell 17p to 458p.

However, John Menzies, the retail and wholesale group based in Edinburgh, was swift to allay fears by issuing a statement that it remained confident that full-year results will be satisfactory.

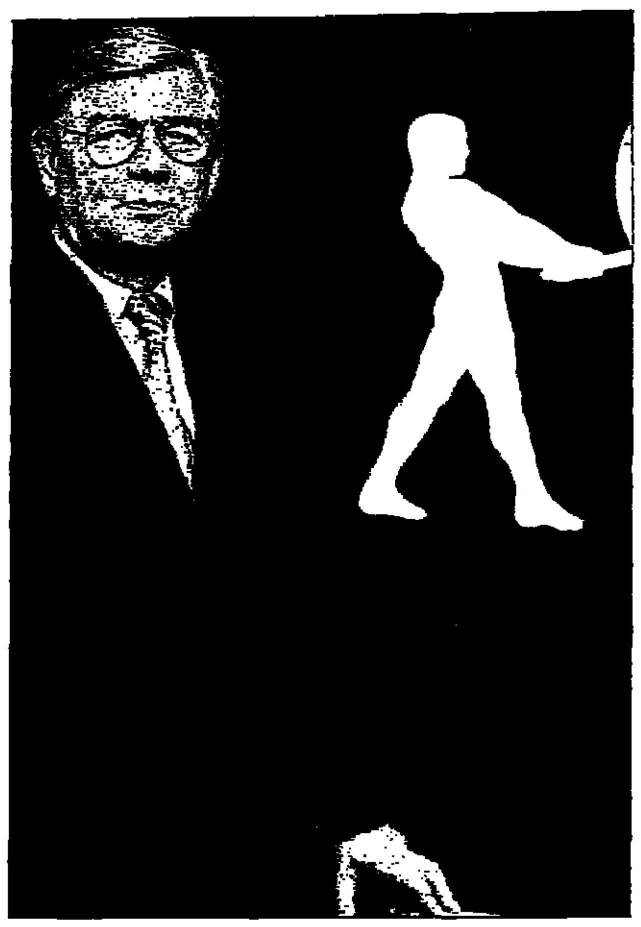
Sir Malcolm Field, WH Smith's chief executive, said that WH Smith Retail sales had fallen 1.3 per cent and operating profits 18 per cent in the 11 months to April 31. As a result, WH Smith Retail profits in the full year are expected to drop £14 million to £68 million. Sir Malcolm said: "We were hoping that sales would improve, particularly over Easter. But they didn't."

The group had initiated Project Enliven, to restore the fortunes of its core business. This includes revamping and extending the project range to include multimedia and childrens' departments, lifting its advertising spend, and restructuring the supply chain.

However, analysts expressed scepticism over the adequacy of the group's actions. John Richards, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said WH Smith faces the fundemental problem of selling low priced commodity items out of high rent stores.

Sir Malcolm said that Waterstone's and Virgin/Our Price were performing strongly, with sales up 6.4 and 14.4 per cent in the first 11 months of the year, respectively.

Tempus, page 24



Michael Gifford, of Rank, which owns the Odeon chain

Rank silent on MGM progress

By Colin Narbrough

EFFORTS to try to block Rank Organisation from acquiring MGM, Britain's largest cinema chain, look set to escalate as the auction by Crédit Lyonnais, its owner, nears conclusion.

SG Warburg, adviser to Crédit Lyonnais, the troubled state-controlled French bank, yesterday denied a report that the bank was in individual negotiations with Rank after selecting it from a shortlist.

Warburg said that final offers from a shortlist were still under review. Crédit Lyonnais wants to sell MGM, which it acquired after Giancarlo Paretti, the Italian financier, defaulted on a $1 billion loan, by July.

Rank, of which Michael Gifford is managing director and chief executive, owns the Odeon chain. It declined the comment on the report, which said Rank had put in a bid 10 per cent higher than its rivals.

The MGM chain, comprising 120 traditional cinemas and 18 multiplexes in the UK and the Irish Republic, represents about 25 per cent of UK box office receipts. Its value is put at close to £200 million.

As Rank's Odeon chain has a 20 per cent share of box office receipts, a tie-up with MGM appears certain to provoke a monopolies inquiry.

Jonathan Evans, Corporate Affairs Minister, said this week that the authorities would take into account all relevent factors if an MGM merger with either Rank or Time-Warner qualified for scrutiny.

Other bidders include Virgin, Prudential Ventures and Electra Capital, Polygram and Craig.

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Trade fair deal in US for United

United Newspapers, the media group run by Lord Stevens and which owns the *Daily Express*, is expanding its exhibitions business with the £38 million purchase of an American trade fair operator.

Miller Freeman, the San Francisco magazine and exhibitions subsidiary of United, is paying $60 million in cash for Walter Fletcher of Santa Monica, California. Fletcher owns and manages eight merchandise trade shows of which four are staged in Las Vegas, two in Atlantic City and one each in New York and Reno.

Fletcher made pre-tax profits last year of $3 million on turnover of $18 million from its eight shows, which attracted 12,600 over one million square feet of exhibition space.

Costs warning

In spite of a return to profit in the half-year to March 31, Richards, the textiles company, gave warning that the carpet industry is not yet out of recession and continues to suffer from over-capacity and high raw material cost increases. Taxable profits of £405,000 compare with a £1.62 million loss last time. Earnings were 1.32p a share (5.56 loss). The interim dividend is held at 1.07p a share, due on July 3. The shares fell 4p to 46p.

Back in black

Wakebourne, the computer services company formerly known as Maddox Group, returned to the black with profits of £1.87 million before tax in 1994. That compared with losses of £18.6 million in the previous year. Earnings were 5.7p a share, compared with losses of 144p. There is no dividend, but the board expects to recommend a final dividend in the current year. The shares advanced 3p to 45p.

Helene higher

A healthy contribution from Reggie, the recently acquired womenswear and raincoat importer, helped Helene lift profits by 35 per cent in the full year. The group, which supplies to high street retailers such as Burton and C&A, saw pre-tax profits rise from £4.5 million to £6.1 million in the year to December 31. The final dividend, payable July 28, was held at 1.36p, making 2.01p for the year. The shares fell ½p to 42p.

Japan seeks OECD as ally against US

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

JAPAN is to seek the support of the OECD countries in its trade war with America.

Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Trade Minister, will seek backing for Japan's resistance to America's threat of punitive unilateral sanctions against Japanese cars at next week's ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The OECD meeting in Paris on Tuesday and Wednesday will be the first chance for wider ministerial consideration of the Clinton Administration's decision to deploy US trade weapons against $5.9 billion worth of Japanese luxury cars instead of letting the World Trade Organisation resolve the dispute.

Mr Hashimoto said the international community was unaware that the US-Japanese talks on cars and spare parts broke down after Japan rejected Washington's demand that Tokyo ensured more access for American firms and told America that it was a matter for the private sector.

Japan filed a formal complaint about the US moves to the WTO and secured important support on Wednesday from the European Union.

Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry yesterday issued a report that called for Japan to reform its economic structure urgently or become the odd man out in international business flows.

Reflecting wide criticism from Japan's trading partners, it said governmental rules distorted the home market, kept prices extremely high and windfall profits from the rising yen were not passed on to Japanese consumers.

Plea on stamp duty

By Caroline Merrell

GILL NOTT, chief executive of Proshare, the organisation aimed at promoting wider share ownership, will today demand that the Government abolishes stamp duty on share transactions.

At a conference in Birmingham, Ms Nott will say that stamp duty is one of the biggest impediments to wider growth of share ownership.

"Stamp duty is a tax on the absolute value of capital, not on its increase in value or its income. It is like chipping away at the goose that lays the golden eggs. The abolition of stamp duty would have beneficial supply-side effects as companies became more willing to restructure in the pursuit of efficiency," she said.

She added that although the UK at present was Europe's leading financial centre, other stock exchanges, where no stamp duty is payable, were beginning to take away some of its business.

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Denmark Kr	9.48	8.68
Finland Mkk	7.49	6.84
France Fr	8.46	7.81
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	381.00	356.00
Hong Kong $	12.83	11.83
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel	5.2745	4.5245
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Malta	0.603	0.548
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Sweden Kr	12.27	11.47
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USA $	1.673	1.543

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The Keswick family, *among the richest and* most powerful of the Hong Kong taipans, is trying to expand its wealth out of the colony. But while avoiding the clutches of communist China, it is losing out in capitalist London. Trafalgar House, its biggest investment outside Hong Kong, has proved an embarrassing flop . . ."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: ANGELO MARESCA

Dining out with the great and the good

Jon Ashworth meets the restaurant manager of the Savoy Grill, 'The Canteen', where the deals are done — and stays for lunch

JAMES MORGAN

Angelo Maresca says it was a dream to return to The Savoy. "My wife said, how much are they paying you? I said, you know, I forgot to ask"

"The Canteen", the second House of Lords, the place where the deals are done. Lunch at the Savoy Grill is a spectacle to behold. Glance discreetly at table 31 and you may observe Lord Archer or Sir David English, tucking in to bangers and mash, or roast lamb off the trolley. Over at table 34, one may find Sir Denis Thatcher, mulling over haddock or fish cakes, while Sir John Egan, or Professor Sir Roland Smith, hold court near by. What would lunch be without Brian Basham or Sir Tim Bell?

All answer to one man: Angelo Maresca, the restaurant manager. From Monday to Saturday, you will find him at the door, waiting with customary smile, ready to greet peers and politicians by name and steer them discreetly to their usual tables. "Come," he says, ushering me towards a banquette in the corner. "This is number 33, Lord King's table." An icy finger runs down my spine.

Lunch is more than an hour away, and Maresca has time to reflect. "You've got to make your clients feel at home, feel welcome, whoever they are, not just look after the regulars," he says. "They're paying the same money, let's face it. Regulars retire, or they move away, and you have to encourage new clients."

That may be true, but the regulars expect the best, and it is Maresca's lot to accommodate them. No easy task, when serving 200 meals a day, six days a week, with the exception of August, when the Grill customarily closes for the month. Dining is a huge money-spinner for The Savoy Group — two-thirds of its income is derived from food and drink — and Maresca and his 24 waiters play their parts to perfection. Behind the scenes, David Sharland, the Devon-born chef, cajoles his 18-strong team, whipping up omelette "Arnold Bennett" and salade de langoustines as the orders come flying in.

> ❛ It's a place to be seen. Celebrity regulars are only too aware of their presence ❜

Maresca, 55, is as cunning as he is courteous, and has all sorts of tricks up his sleeve to avert potential disasters. Take the "bucket" incident. Two regulars had booked table 5 for dinner, and an embarrassing encounter loomed. Maresca stripped the table and put an ice bucket on it. He ushered the first diner elsewhere, saying there had been a leak. By the time the second regular arrived, the "leak" had miraculously been repaired.

On another occasion, a regular telephoned and asked for "my usual, the one next to the bust of JFK". Faced with a double-booking, Maresca deviously moved the bust, then expressed his surprise that the guest had chosen to sit where he had.

The stories are endless. Lord Goodman used to come in through the fire escape. He once complained about the treacherous walk to the gentlemen's cloakroom, with its jacket-brushing, tip-hungry attendants. This gave rise to a plan — later abandoned — to modify Maresca's office to accommodate the peer. "I couldn't believe it," says Maresca, waving his hands in mock horror. "They wanted to build a loo in my office."

The Grill is a place to be seen, and celebrity regulars are only too aware of their presence — some more than others. "Whatever you do, don't forget to mention Richard Harris," says Maresca, gesturing towards a table near the door. The veteran actor has a permanent apartment in The Savoy, and was peeved not to be mentioned in an earlier article. The Grill's strict dress code posed a problem in his case — jacket and tie are *de rigueur*, but Maresca struck on a solution. "You know how he dresses, and one day I didn't have the heart to send him away, because he's such a likeable person," he recalls. "So you know what I had to do? I had to screen him off. I put a screen around him — he loved it."

The sight of an open-neck shirt looming in the doorway will have Maresca rummaging for a tie — Richard Branson once received this treatment — but the rest of the wardrobe is more problematic. Jackets are available, but Maresca draws the line at trousers. "Jeans are totally out of the question," he says. "I did once supply one young boy with everything, but you can't lose a member of staff on this sort of thing."

Adam Faith invariably turns up ill-prepared. "Often he comes and pinches my shirts and doesn't return them," laughs Maresca. "He flies home from abroad and pops in and says: 'I come and see you. Do you want to feed me?' I say: 'I not only feed you, I have to dress you as well'." Lord Hanson still dines here occasionally. Pavarotti, once a fixture, is rarely seen nowadays. "He does his own cooking in his room," says Maresca. "Can you imagine? He comes out of the opera, then goes up in his room and does his own cooking. It's quite amazing." It is said that the best tables are along the walls or by the window, but Maresca tactfully insists that all 33 are good. "Which tables are best? I don't think there are such things. Quite a few people like to sit in the corner, next to the fire escape. Number 4. Where Churchill used to sit."

Maresca has been manager of the Grill since 1982, but first encountered the fabled venue many years earlier. Born in Sorrento, Italy, he arrived at The Savoy in 1960 at the age of 21, hungry for experience. "It was part of your career to come to The Savoy," he recalls. "Everybody wanted a certificate." He did the obligatory 18-month stint, starting as commis waiter. "I worked in the River Restaurant, but came to the Grill a couple of times to see how they were running it. It was double the size in those days. The kitchen was downstairs. I don't think you could find the waiters nowadays to go up and down those steps."

From The Savoy, he moved to the old Quaglinos as station head waiter and went on to make his name as a troubleshooter at various London restaurants, before returning to Italy in 1973. It took the prestige of the Grill to lure him back. "Of course, it was a dream to come back to The Savoy," he reflects. "My wife said, how much are they paying you? I said, you know, I forgot to ask. Quite honestly, I came here and I didn't know how much I was earning."

Across the room, activity is increasing. Waiters scurry about, fussing and humming. David Sharland emerges from the kitchen, hatless, his preparations complete. "You get in at 7, you probably go for a break at 3 for a quick run, and then you've got another service sort of like at 6 o'clock," he says in his flat Devon accent. He has tackled the London Marathon and hopes to compete in the New York event. "It just helps you to keep a little bit sane."

What do the great and good eat? "If you look at your traditional Grill person, it would be saddle of lamb, smoked salmon, a grilled piece of meat," he says. "If you're looking at the new sort of clientele, then they're quite happy to try the right hand side of the menu, the turbot, or the salade de langoustines, the carpaccio of beef ... the sort of things that are popular in Le Caprice and The Ivy."

The pair plan their day with meticulous attention to detail. After six years in the job, Sharland has come to know everything about the regulars: their likes and dislikes, their favourite waiter, and how fast they like to be served. Maresca will ask the diners what they think of the food, and the kitchen responds accordingly. Take the case of the Jeffrey Archer sausage. Sharland put a vegetarian sausage on the menu as an experiment, and the writer, who likes his bangers and mash, insisted they name it after him.

"That was the power of the man," Sharland recalls. "Unfortunately, it was only Jeffrey Archer ate his own sausage, and nobody else wanted it."

The rush, when it comes, hits like a breaking wave. "It's amazing," Sharland says. "We could be stood there at ten past one waiting for the customers to come in, and suddenly, quarter past, you've got all the checks coming in, and ten to two, it's finished." "Nowadays, people want to eat very quickly," Maresca adds. "Half past two, the place is empty. Not many people ever sit down and have a port or brandy."

Maresca retires during the afternoon to read the *Evening Standard*, before re-emerging at about 5.30pm to welcome guests for pre-theatre dinner and drinks. Most of the business is done in the evening. But now, lunch is rapidly approaching, and there are more stories to be told. "Tony!" shouts Maresca. "Where's Tony?" Tony Carmona, the head sommelier, appears from behind a pillar. This is the man who once tipped an entire Bloody Mary down Sophia Loren's ample cleavage — claiming to have been startled by a mouse. "I've been here for 47 years," he says, his eyes misting over. "I've seen a lot of changes. In the old days, you would get the Queen Mother and Queen Juliana and everybody ..."

He recalls an era when the Grill was filled with film stars and royalty; when Maria Callas would sweep in to a standing ovation. "Noel Coward was my favourite," he says. "He was a real sweetie, a very nice human being. The Queen Mother, she arrived one night from the theatre, and went straight up to him to go and kiss him — 'No, no, Noel, don't get up.' You wouldn't get up for the Queen *Mother*?"

Suddenly, the atmosphere changes. Sharland returns to the kitchen. Carmona takes up his station. Maresca rises, beaming that famous smile. "I must go," he says, glancing watchfully towards the door. "You will be staying for lunch?"

The 30cms that add up to a European divide

FROM ROSS TIEMAN IN GERONA

Freeman: facing choice

BRITAIN'S efforts to become a good European in the contentious field of defence procurement are in danger of foundering in a battle over the width of Europe's planned military transport aircraft.

Just 30 centimetres separate the five nations at the heart of the Future Large Aircraft from agreement.

The decision over whether the cargo hold is three metres, 70 centimetres wide, or four metres across, will determine which pieces of military equipment used by each army the aircraft can carry.

The French and the Germans are believed to be in agreement. But the need to get five nations on board to secure enough orders to make the multibillion pound project viable has complicated the discussion about performance criteria.

Yves Michot, chief executive of Aerospatiale, the potential French partner in the venture, said that because of the dispute, military procurement chiefs had yet to issue documents setting out performance requirements for the plane.

An unpublished feasibility study suggests the aircraft could provide much better value than the American Lockheed C130J Hercules already ordered by the RAF. The findings will give heart to British Aerospace, which believes it must become a 20 per cent partner in design and development of the FLA.

The European transport aircraft, a four-engined, high-wing turboprop, is set to be built by a new subsidiary of Airbus. Aerospatiale, Dasa, of Germany, and Alenia, of Italy, would each join BAe with a 20 per cent share of the programme. Spain would have a 10 per cent share, with the rest divided between Portugal, Turkey and Belgium.

Claude Terrazzoni, head of civil aircraft at Aerospatiale, says studies show that FLA offers substantial benefits over its US rival. The European contender would carry almost twice as much in a normal day's work, but its through-life support costs would be 60 per cent of its rival.

Details of the feasibility study are expected to be unveiled at the Paris Air Show in three weeks. But unless specifications can be agreed, Roger Freeman, Britain's Defence Procurement Minister, will find it difficult to do anything but seek a revised renewed tender from Lockheed to renew the rest of the RAF fleet.

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STOCK MARKET PHILIP PANGALOS

High street retailers reel from double blow

IT was another nervous day for investors as heavy overnight falls in New York spilled over into London, with confidence further dented by a shock profits warning from WH Smith and news that Reject Shop has been put into receivership.

A near 82-point overnight slump on Wall Street saw shares in London marked sharply lower at the start. Matters were made worse as *price movements* were exaggerated by the expiry of the May traded options contract that prompted violent swings in the FT-SE 100 index, which at one time had rallied to 3,273.7.

Signs of further profit-taking in New York ahead of the weekend saw most investors remain firmly rooted to the sidelines. The negative start on Wall Street depressed sentiment in late London trading, though some dealers were surprised at how well the UK market had actually held up. The FT-SE 100 index partly recovered from a one-time 31.9 point deficit, ending 24.8 lower at 3,261.0 — giving a 49.3-point loss on the week. Volume reached only 578.1 million shares.

Those hardest hit included international stocks exposed to the United States and retailers, depressed by a shock profits warning from WH Smith and news that the Reject Shop had been put into *receivership*.

Shares in **WH Smith** dived 65p to 351p after the UK's biggest newsagent shocked the City by issuing a profits warning, prompting widespread profit downgradings. The company gave warning that estimates of current-year profits are too high, mainly because of a fall in retail profits. Smith said pre-tax profits, before exceptional items, are expected to fall to £115 million, from £124.8 million last time. The company intends to maintain its final payout at 10.4p, giving a total of 15.65p (15.4p).

Analysts were taken by surprise. The group had in January reported a good Christmas and said then that UK retail sales had risen by 7.3 per cent in the three months to December 24, with December sales alone up by 11.6 per cent.

However, 11 months into the year, the group says that WH Smith Retail has actually suffered a 1.3 per cent drop in sales to £840.7 million in the period to April 30, and profits for the year to June 3 are seen down 14 per cent. A £12.5 million provision is to be taken for rationalisation of business supplies.

WH Smith has suffered from competition from supermarkets, which have moved into its traditional markets by opening up shelf space to magazines, books, papers and videos. **John Menzies**, fellow newsagent, initially fell to 513p in sympathy, but recovered to close 2p lower at 537p after reaffirming past remarks that "circumstances are undeniably tough" but the full year should be "satisfactory".

The retail sector, already unsettled by Thursday's weaker than expected retail sales figures for April, was further depressed by news that the Reject Shop has finally been put into receivership. **Upton & Southern**, owners of the Reject Shop, slid ½p to 1¼p. Elsewhere, **Marks & Spencer**, which is due to report full-year figures next Tuesday, lost 9½p to 416p, **Kingfisher** 17p to 458p, **Argos** 6p to 428p, **Boots** 8p to 531p, **Dixons** 2p to 238p, **MFI** 3p to 127p, and **Next** 3½p to 323p, in spite of a relatively upbeat annual meeting.

Thorn EMI was a rare bright spot, with the shares up 25p to £12.18 after overnight buying and ahead of next Tuesday's final results.

Dealers reported a split buying order in the morning, which left the market short of stock and prompted Goldman Sachs, the market maker, to mark the shares up sharply as two brokers chased the limited amount of available stock. The trading revived talk of an approach from Disney for Thorn's music businesses, a move which has been formally denied by Thorn, and talk of a break-up bid.

Analysts put a minimum value of £14.50 per share on the company in the event of a break-up. Next week's final pre-tax profits are forecast to advance to between £400 million and £440 million, accompanied by a possible double digit dividend increase to over 37p net for the year.

Kleinwort Benson also attracted renewed speculative interest, adding 13p to 681p, with Dresdner Bank's name in the frame this time.

Alvis also went against the largely negative trend, advancing 7½p to 103½p, on heavy volume of 34.2 million shares traded, as Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, sold his 29.86 per cent stake in the defence equipment manufacturer.

SG Warburg placed 16.6 million shares held by BIL Securities (Far East) with institutions at a price of 94½p a share. Alvis shares have had a strong run, rising from a level of 44p in early February. It also reported a 92 per cent *jump in first half pre-tax* profits to £1.8 million, a higher interim dividend, and forecast a substantial increase in second half profits.

Queens Moat Houses, which on Thursday resumed trading after a two-year suspension after a complex refinancing, added 3p to 9¼p, with 23.2 million shares changing hands.

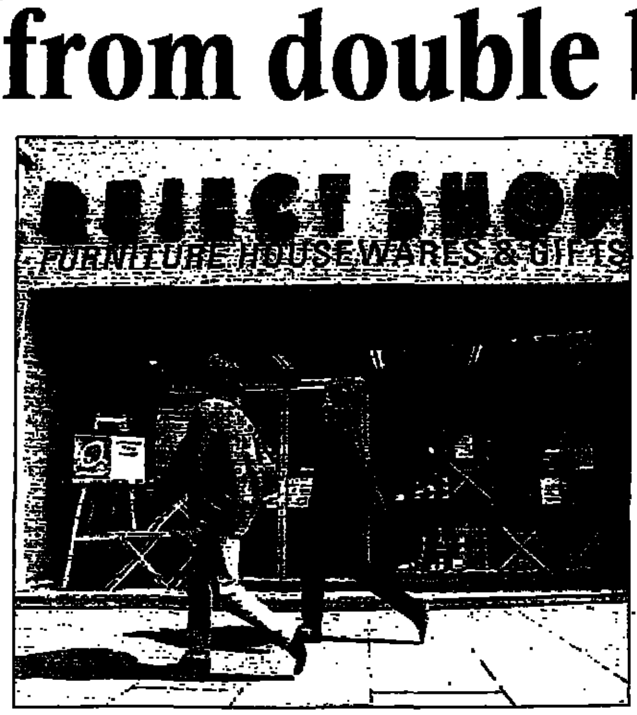
De La Rue also bucked the market trend with a rise of 9p to 934p, with dealers reporting a stock squeeze after some early buying interest.

Midland Independent Newspapers lost 6p to 119p.

GILT-EDGED: Government stocks had a relatively quiet day, with some light profit-taking after the recent good run.

The June series of the long gilt future ended nine ticks lower at £106⁴/₃₂, on volume of 38,000 contracts traded. Among conventional issues, losses stretched to £⅜ among longer-dated stocks, while index-linked issues saw losses of up to £¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** On Wall Street, shares remained weak in spite of some opportunist buying. Pharmaceutical companies bucked the trend to bounce back. The Dow Jones industrial average was 19.37 points lower by midday at 4,321.27.



Upton & Southern's Reject Shop is now in receivership

ICI climbed ½p to 769½p as traders await the outcome of the chemical giant's bid for Grow Group, the US paintmaker. ICI's $290 million agreed bid was challenged by Sherwin-Williams, the biggest American paintmaker, after it topped ICI's bid with a $320 million offer. Many expect a higher offer from ICI.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
WH Smith	351p	-55½p	Profits warning
Telegraph	389p	-53p	Offer to buy back shares withdrawn
Tadpole Technology	108p	-26p	Losses, board resignation
Ennemix	30p	-4p	Profits warning
Eurovein	34p	-36p	Warning of losses, no dividend
Fine Decor	127½p	-21½p	Slide in profits
Marley	119p	-8p	Profits warning
Quality Care Homes	277p	+47p	Bid approach
Trafalgar House	49½p	-7½p	Half-year losses, no dividend

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	4321.27 (-19.37)
S&P Composite	517.44 (-2.14)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	16140.85 (-171.71)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	9013.32 (-102.40)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	419.82 (-4.99)

Sydney:

AO	1996.5 (-24.0)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2065.13 (-22.00)

Singapore:

Straits	2158.93 (-4.54)

Brussels:

General	7564.78 (+49.85)

Paris:

CAC-40	1965.46 (-24.32)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	637.60 (-5.40)

London:

FT 30	2484.9 (-14.7)
FT 100	3261.0 (-24.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	3596.7 (-22.8)
FT-SE-A 350	1622.3 (-11.8)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1345.57 (-21.43)
FT A All-Share	1605.78 (-11.22)
FT Non Financials	1728.76 (-11.28)
FT Fixed Interest	112.75 (+0.26)
FT Govt Secs	93.35 (+0.11)
Bargains	24360
SEAQ Volume	664.0m
USM (Datastrm)	154.53 (-0.33)
US$	1.5735 (+0.0100)
German Mark	2.2674 (-0.0150)
Exchange Index	84.9 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2158
£:SDR	1.0253
RPI	149.0 Apr (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap Uts p/p	724	-3
Dumyat IT Cv An Div	105	...
Dumyat IT Mthly Div	105	...
Edinburgh Jap Tst C	101	+1
Finsbury W'wide Phrm	102	-1
General Cable (190)	178	...
Gus Carter (80)	95	...
Ivory/Sime UK Disc	97	...
Ivory/Sime UK Disc Wts	31	-1
Oryx India	650	...
Oryx India Wts	250	...
Precoat Int'l (125)	135	...
Schroder Inc/Gwth Fd	106	...
Schroder Inc/Gwth Wts	27	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Kleinwort Benson	681p (+13p)
Zeneca	924p (+12p)
De La Rue	934p (+9p)
Peel	228p (+14p)
JJB Sports	306p (+9p)

FALLS:

Nat Aust Bank	556p (-18p)
Eve Group	260p (-15p)
Meyer Int	340p (-10p)
Jardine Math	502p (-17½p)
Grand Met	384p (-6p)
Guinness	461½p (-8½p)
Tadpole Tech	108p (-8p)
IMI	295p (-8p)
Vosper Thorny	809p (-10p)
Airflow Stream	242p (-8p)
GKN	646p (-11p)
Laird	366p (-8p)
Grand Central	32½p (-10½p)
Treatt	263p (-9p)
General Accident	586p (-13p)
Dorling Kind	385p (-7p)
Burmah Castrol	897p (-6p)
Glaxo Wellcome	704p (-9p)
Bowater	466p (-9p)
Land Sec	585p (-7p)
Argos	428p (-6p)
Boots	531p (-8p)
GUS	592½p (-6½p)
Kingfisher	458p (-17p)
Marks Spencer	416½p (-9½p)
WH Smith	351p (-65p)
Sothebys	828p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Smith livens up

NO TRIED and trusted high street formula can be declared safe after WH Smith confessed to falling sales at its core newsagents chain. Few were surprised by the problems at Woolworth and Comet, revealed this year by Kingfisher, and in a catalogue of *retailing experiences* — the collapse of Reject Shop, announced yesterday, is probably a merciful release.

But WH Smith is in a different league. Unlike Woolworth, it has a clear identity and for British shoppers, its name spells newspapers and magazines in the same way that Boots spells chemists. By all accounts, it is well-managed and even if its shops appear *drab, they have improved* their use of space by adding videos and now CD-Rom.

Unfortunately, that is not enough. Low price inflation and weak consumer demand have made retailers desperate to find alternative sources of revenue. At the same time, shop rents are on the rise, putting pressure on retailers to seek more sales. The response has been to cram selling space with new products and, for WH Smith, the superstores are the main offenders, filling empty walls with newspapers and magazines, just as petrol pumps were slotted into the car park.

WH Smith has not been quick to act, having seen the sales erosion build-up over the past four years, as competitor newspaper selling space grew by more than 40 per cent. Its response — Project Enliven — means more ads and targeting consumer groups: books for kids and multimedia. But an extra £3 million to the advertising *budget may be too little, too* late. In spite of their aggressive marketing drives, the oil companies continue to lose market share to the superstores.

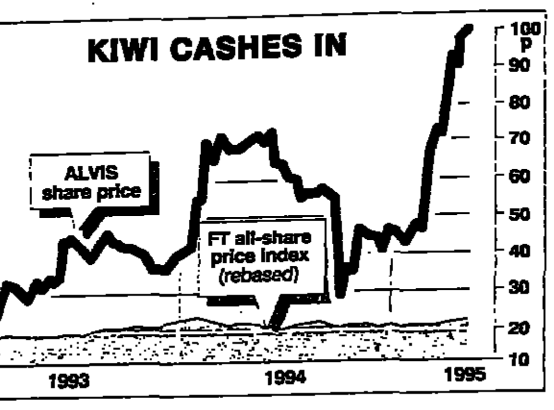
Alvis

THE market chose to ignore any loss of bid premium as the acquisitive New Zealander Sir Ron Brierley placed his 29 per cent stake in Alvis. Analysts focused instead on the new business driving the shares.

Alvis makes armoured personnel carriers and suffered a severe setback last year when anticipated orders from the Ministry of Defence failed to materialise. Alvis shares plummeted from over 70p to less than 30p but a large Indonesian order for armoured cars signed in March has sent the stock motoring to £1.

Defence contracting is notorious for volatile profits even among the larger groups such as British Aerospace. For small operators like Alvis, the problem is worse. Single orders can make or break annual profitability. The trick is to keep running costs low in order to minimise *the pain in* lean periods.

But Alvis could be heading for a bumper harvest in Stormer armoured cars. The division needs £18 million in turnover to break even and the Indonesian order is worth some £60 million. Other orders worth £40 million to £50 million from the MoD for missile carriers and £15 million for mine-laying vehicles could be imminent. With further Indonesian orders expected, profits could reach £12 million in 1996, leaving Alvis on a multiple of seven. Experience counsels caution — investors should not expect a smooth ride.



GEC

THE latest attack on the "sleepy" GEC, emanating from Smith New Court Securities, comes at an intriguing time. Manufacturing stocks are in vogue, thanks to cheap sterling. GEC is one of fewer than a dozen true British manufacturing blue chips left. But potential investors fear it is deadly dull.

As SNC points out, however, this need not be so. In a comparison with GE of America, which is six times the size of GEC and relatively more profitable, it shows that a mature company managed with verve can grow fast and drive sales, productivity and profit margins faster. Scale can even be an advantage in changing tack and building up new divisions.

GEC might not want to follow GE's headlong dive into financial services, which has not been without dramas. But the combination of caution on investment with a Siemens-style cash pile does point to opportunities wasted. Lord Weinstock's caution again proved its value during recession.

If GEC is to outperform consistently in the kinder new climate as its shares have underperformed for much of the past decade, a change of approach looks necessary. Fortunately, given the market-beating profit potential, it is not a short-term necessity.

Labatt

THE head of Molson, Canada's largest brewer, once confided that owning the legendary Montreal Canadiens hockey team was more trouble than it was worth. A losing team was bad for morale and the cost of buying the talent needed to win was too expensive. Hockey players, despite their notorious aggression, are surprisingly delicate; one ripped ligament turns them into liabilities.

The same can be said of Gerald Schwartz's attitude to the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team, which is owned by John Labatt, Molson's main competitor and one of Britain's largest independent pub owners.

His Onex Corporation has offered C$2.3 billion (£1.1 billion) for Labatt and said it would sell the Jays if the bid succeeds.

A top Jays pitcher might pocket several million dollars for a six-month season and his performance is best predicted by astrologers.

Beer, on the other hand, is a reliable business in Canada. It is highly profitable, thanks in part to cartel-like rules that prevent American brands from flooding into the market. Canadians love their beer, even when it is in subzero temperatures.

Schwartz should move quickly to sell the Jays while their market value is still high. The team won the last two World Series, but, judging from their dismal, early-season performance, the winning streak will not last.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	947-940	Jul	1045-1043
Jul	962-961	Sep	1052-1044
Sep	980-979	Dec	1072-1062
Dec	1000-999	Mar	1090-1080
Mar	1020-1019		
May	1032-1031		Volume: 7753

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3030-3025	Jan	3013-3000
Jul	3049-3045	Mar	3000-2990
Sep	3025-3020	May	2980-2970
Nov	3023-3010		Volume: 1700

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	288.3-87.5
Spot: 381.5		May	289.1-97.5
Aug	343.0-42.5	Aug	289.6-87.6
Oct	300.8-00.0	Oct	275.1-72.5
Dec	289.7-88.4		Volume: 617

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on May 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	95.55	130.53	123.99
(+/-)	+5.76	-3.20	+0.90
Eng/Wales:	95.53	130.37	123.45
(+/-)	+5.78	-3.52	+0.63
(%)	+14.0	+43.0	-5.0
Scotland:	97.49	135.40	126.51
(+/-)	+3.67	+9.49	+2.46
(%)	+40.0	+134.0	-21.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.45	n/c
Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.40	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Aug)	18.10	+0.06
W Texas Intermediate (Jul)	19.80	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	19.60	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 211 (n/c)	O: 213 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	160 (n/c)	161 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jun	158 (+1)	159 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Jul	156 (-1)	157 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	108 (n/c)	111 (n/c)
Naphtha	187 (+2)	190 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jun	156.75-57.00	Sep	157.75-58.00
Jul	155.50-56.00	Oct	160.25-60.50
Aug	156.25-56.50		Vol: 17187

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jul	18.36 BID	Oct	17.75 SLR
Aug	18.06-18.08	Nov	17.59-17.65
Sep	17.82-17.84		Vol: 25459

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)

May	123.25
Jul	123.75
Sep	107.35
Nov	108.50
Jan	110.45
	Volume: 299

BARLEY (close £/t)

May	112.75
Sep	104.25
Nov	106.25
Jan	108.60
Mar	110.40
	Volume: 0

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	126.9	125.0
May	unq	147.5
Jun	--	--
		Volume: 6

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 119.25-119.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
May 95	2196	2145	2150
Jun 95	2090	2020	2020
Jul 95	1955	1900	1900
Oct 95	1945	1905	1905
Vol: 338 lots		Open interest: 4793	

Index 2208 -12

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2739.0-2739.5	2738.0-2739.0	1076650
Lead ($/tonne)	590.00-592.00	602.00-603.00	124900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1021.0-1022.0	1045.5-1046.0	265300
Tin ($/tonne)	5808.0-5810.0	5795.0-5805.0	14795
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1725.0-1725.5	1745.5-1746.5	1267325
Nickel ($/tonne)	7330.0-7340.0	7460.0-7465.0	104610

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
Alld Dom.	500	33	38	46½	8½	13	20½
(*533)	550	7	14	22	38½	41½	46½
Argyll	300	8½	16½	22	14½	18½	22½
(*300)	330	1	6½	11½	38½	40	42½
ASDA	80	4½	6½	8½	3	4½	6
(*81½)	90	1	2½	4½	9½	10½	11½
Boots	500	33	42	49	7½	12	17
(*530)	550	5½	16½	24	35	37½	42
Br Airways	420	15½	24½	33	15½	22	26½
(*425)	460	3	10	17	45	48½	51
BP	420	33½	42	48	3½	8	11½
(*446½)	460	8½	19½	26½	19½	25	29
Br Steel	160	16	18½	19½	2	5	6½
(*174)	180	4	8	9½	12	14½	16½
C & W	390	21	32	39½	10½	16½	20½
(*402½)	420	7	18½	26	28	33	36½
CU	550	39	50	60	8½	17½	22½
(*577½)	600	12½	24½	35	32	43½	48
ICI	750	39½	51	68½	12	25½	29½
(*770)	800	14½	26½	43½	37	52	55½
Kingfishr	420	44	54½	63½	4	12	15
(*458)	460	15½	29½	39½	17	28	31
Land Sec	550	35½	40	45½	8½	12½	17½
(*583½)	600	5	15	20½	39	41½	44
M & S	390	28	35	42	4	8½	10½
(*415½)	420	9	18	26	18	21½	24
Nat West	500	49	56½	67	4½	11½	15
(*540½)	550	16	26½	38	21	33	36½
Sainsbury	420	20½	29	37½	6½	10	15
(*439½)	460	3½	10½	18½	32	34	36½
Shell	750	22½	36½	48	13½	24½	28½
(*753)	800	4½	13½	25	47½	55	58
Smkl Bch	460	39½	48	57	3½	9	14
(*490½)	500	13½	24½	34½	18	25	31
Storehse	240	9½	16½	20	9	12	14
(*241½)	260	2½	8½	11½	23	24½	26
Trafalgar	45	7	9	11	1½	3	4
(*49½)	50	4	7	8½	3½	5½	6
Unilever	1150	63½	92	107½	9	17½	26
(*1192½)	1200	31½	60½	77	27½	36½	40
Zeneca	900	44	62	80½	14½	31½	37½
(*920)	950	19½	37	55	40	56½	62½
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Grnd Met	360	30½	37	42½	6½	8½	13
(*384)	390	12	20	26	19	21½	27
Ladbroke	180	10	14½	19	7	10½	12
(*181)	200	2½	6½	10½	20	23	24½
Utd Bisc	300	36	42	47	3½	9½	10½
(*327½)	330	16	24	30	11	20½	23

Series		Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Puts Jul	Puts Oct	Puts Jan
BAA	460	32	41½	49	5½	9½	14
(*487½)	500	8½	19	27½	24	28	33
Thames W	460	29	33½	39	10	17	23
(*485)	500	5½	14½	20	36	39½	45
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
BAT Ind	460	38½	44	55	12	18	22
(*484)	500	16½	24	34½	31½	38	42
BTR	330	19½	24	29	7	12½	14½
(*338)	360	5½	10½	15	24½	29½	31
Br Aero	495	61	73	—	9½	18	—
(*538½)	545	31	44	—	30	39½	—
Br Telcm	390	18	21½	24½	13	18	23
(*396½)	420	5½	9	12½	34½	37½	42
Cadbury	409	46	—	—	3	—	—
(*446)	447	19½	—	—	14½	—	—
Guinness	460	21	29	41	13½	18½	23
(*462½)	500	6	12½	23	41½	42½	46
GEC	300	21½	24½	27½	6	9	11
(*317)	330	4½	9	13	23½	25½	28
Hanson	240	8	12	14½	8½	13	15½
(*240)	260	2½	5	7½	24	26½	28½
LASMO	160	13	17½	22	5	7½	9
(*166)	180	4	9	13	17	18½	20
Lucas	180	21½	25½	27½	3	7½	9½
(*196)	200	9½	14	17	11	17	19
Pilkingtn	180	7½	12½	16	7	10	11½
(*181½)	200	1½	5	8	21	23	24
Prudential	300	32	37	41½	4	7½	9
(*324)	330	13	19	24	14	20	21½
Redland	420	46	55	63	4½	11½	13
(*456)	460	19½	30½	39½	19	27½	29
R-Royce	180	12½	16	20½	7	11	12½
(*183)	200	4½	7½	11½	19	22½	24
Tesco	260	17½	22½	28½	5½	9	11
(*268½)	280	7	12½	18	15½	19	21
Vodafone	180	20½	26½	30	3½	6½	8½
(*196)	200	9	15½	19½	12	15	18
Williams	300	33	36	41½	2	5½	6½
(*326½)	330	12	17	23	11½	17	18

FT-SE INDEX (*3259)

	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400
Calls						
May	109	59	9			
Jun	126	87	53½	30	14½	5
Jul	152½	116	86½	61	39½	25½
Aug	166½	132	101	75½	52½	36½
Dec	—	204	—	149	—	102½
Puts						
May				43	93	143
Jun	13½	23	40½	68	105	151
Jul	29	42½	62½	88	119	157½
Aug	40	55½	74½	99½	128½	164½
Dec	—	100½	—	149½	—	201

Series		Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat.	460	30	31	40½	5½	16	18½
(*472½)	500	3	12	21	29	38	40
Amstrad	200	17	23½	28½	1½	6	8½
(*214½)	220	5	12	17½	9½	14½	17½
Barclays	650	17	32½	47	14½	30	35
(*650)	700	2½	13½	25	51	61½	65
Blue Circ	300	13	23	29	5½	13½	17
(*305½)	330	2	10	15½	25½	30	34
Br Gas	280	21½	28½	33	1	3½	7½
(*299½)	300	7	15	20½	6½	10½	15½
Dixons	220	19½	23	27½	1	5½	8
(*237½)	240	6	11	16	7	14½	17
Forte	240	7	15½	20½	5	8	11
(*243)	260	0½	7	11½	18	19½	22
Hillsdwn	180	7	13	17	3	5½	8½
(*183½)	200	0½	4½	8	16½	17½	20
Lonrho	140	20	22	25½	0	1½	3½
(*159)	160	5	8½	13	4½	8½	10½
Sears	100	9½	12	13½	0½	1½	2½
(*108½)	110	2½	5½	7½	3½	5½	6
Thrn Eml	1200	35½	58½	75½	13½	41	48
(*1217½)	1250	12½	33½	53	38½	70	76½
Tomkins	220	18½	22½	26	1	6	8
(*236½)	240	5	10½	15	8	15½	17½
TSB	240	12½	18½	25	4	10½	14
(*247)	260	3½	9	16	15	21½	25
Wellcome	1000	53½	58	—	0	2½	—
(*1052½)	1050	8½	19½	—	6	16½	—
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Glaxo Well	700	29	43	51	18	35½	41½
(*703½)	750	10	21½	29½	50	67	72
HSBC	750	60½	79	96	14½	30½	39½
(*788)	800	31	52	69½	35½	53½	63
Reuter	460	27½	39	51	9	17	21
(*474½)	500	8½	19½	31	30½	38	41½
Series		**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Jan**
Royal Ins.	300	23½	29½	36½	6½	12½	16
(*315½)	330	8	15	22	21½	28	31½
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Fisons	160	21½	26½	31½	1	4	7½
(*179½)	180	7½	14½	20½	6½	11½	16
Series		**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**Feb**
Eastern Gp	600	54½	66½	74½	19½	28½	36
(*639½)	650	25½	41½	49½	44½	53½	61½
Series		**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	460	12	18½	28	15½	22	26
(*462)	500	1½	6	13	49½	51½	53
Scot Pwr	300	30	35½	38½	1	7	9½
(*328)	330	8	16	20½	9	20½	22½

May 19, 1995 Tot: 70572 Calls: 19937 Puts: 50635 FT-SE Calls: 8084 Puts: 24839

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 77401	Jun 95	3270.0	3280.0	3255.0	3264.0	14524
	Sep 95				3285.5	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 4032	Jun 95				3630.0	0
	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling *Previous open interest: 405819*	Jun 95	93.12	93.15	93.09	93.12	9356
	Sep 95	*92.75*	*92.80*	*92.73*	*92.74*	*16706*
	Dec 95	92.47	92.52	92.44	92.46	6198
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 1184	Jun 95				93.88	0
	Sep 95				93.95	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 666023	Jun 95	95.47	95.49	95.46	95.48	10532
	Sep 95	95.41	95.45	95.41	95.44	16308
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 110501	Jun 95	106-13	106-16	106-00	106-04	38213
	Sep 95	105-31	106-01	105-21	105-23	1303
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 95	118.14	118.34	118.10	118.35	1404
	Sep 95	117.17	117.42	117.12	117.41	3556
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 206790	Jun 95	94.15	94.35	94.09	94.15	82443
	Sep 95	93.55	93.70	93.52	93.53	1262
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20627	Jun 95	93.86	93.86	93.77	93.80	744
	Sep 95	93.86	93.86	93.78	93.79	398
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 38251	Jun 95	96.52	96.57	96.52	96.57	1660
	Sep 95	96.44	96.48	96.43	96.47	1761
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 49441	Jun 95	101.25	101.40	100.25	100.55	45014
	Sep 95	100.30	100.40	99.70	99.93	272

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¾ Low 5½ Week fixed: 6¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6½; 3 mth 6½. Sell: 2 mth 6¼; 3 mth: 6½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 5½, close 7.					
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	6.01	n/a	6.03	6.09	6.15
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £4,668m allotted: £1,110m; Bids: £98.435% received: 97%; Last week: £98.43% received: 25%; Avge rate: £6.2324% last wk £6.2693%; Next week: £1,100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6-5½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	7¼-7	[illegible]	8¼-6½
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $383.00-383.50 Close: $383.00-383.50 High: $383.30-383.80 Low: $382.00-382.50 AM: $382.60 PM: $383.00

Krugerrand: $384.00-386.00 (£244.00-246.00)

Platinum: $430.00 (£273.35) **Silver:** $5.39 (£3.425) **Palladium:** $157.75 (£100.30)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for May 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5283-2.5401	2.5331-2.5364	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.49-46.74	46.57-46.67	9-8pr	18-13pr
Copenhagen	8.8230-8.8900	8.8560-8.8710	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Dublin	0.9793-0.9837	0.9800-0.9826	1ds-3pr	1ds-5pr
Frankfurt	2.2581-2.2706	2.2651-2.2682	[illegible]pr	1½-1pr
Lisbon	237.32-239.69	237.46-238.09	99-95ds	176-229ds
Madrid	196.68-197.46	196.78-197.07	48-57ds	147-164ds
Milan	2604.10-2636.40	2620.60-2630.20	7-10ds	21-25ds
Montreal	2.1180-2.1403	2.1329-2.1360	0.30-0.29ds	0.36-0.48ds
New York	1.5718-1.5764	1.5730-1.5740	0.03pr-par	0.19-0.14pr
Oslo	10.0430-10.1180	10.0750-10.0900	[illegible]pr	3½-2pr
Paris	8.0180-8.0590	8.0250-8.0390	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	11.5760-11.6360	11.6120-11.6360	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	136.35-136.85	136.37-136.63	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.88-15.97	15.90-15.93	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8819-1.8935	1.8876-1.8904	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3995-1.4015
Austria	10.10-10.11
Belgium (Com)	29.60-29.61
Canada	1.3570-1.3575
Denmark	5.6225-5.6280
France	5.1040-5.1100
Germany	1.4380-1.4390
Hong Kong	7.7350-7.7360
Ireland	*1.6014-1.6049*
Italy	1668.00-1668.20
Japan	86.73-86.80
Malaysia	2.4637-2.4647
Netherlands	1.6096-1.6101
Norway	6.3952-6.3972
Portugal	150.81-150.91
Singapore	1.3930-1.3940
Spain	125.13-125.18
Sweden	7.3716-7.3816
Switzerland	1.1967-1.1972

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5753-1.5779
Australia dollar	2.2069-2.2094
Bahrain dinar	0.5875-0.5985
Brazil real*	1.4020-1.4061
China yuan	12.50 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	6.8675-6.9835
Greece drachma	361.65-368.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.1857-12.1912
India rupee	48.91-49.87
Indonesia rupiah	3471.00-3539.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4635-0.4735
Malaysia ringgit	3.8813-3.8841
New Zealand dollar	2.4023-2.4049
Pakistan rupee	48.47 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8325-5.9585
Singapore dollar	2.1945-2.1968
S Africa rand (com)	5.7440-5.8460
U A E dirham	5.7100-5.8340

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	814	Legal & Gn	1,500
ASDA Gp	4,600	Lloyds Bk	1,300
Abbey Natl	1,800	MEPC	1,600
Alld Dom	15,000	Marks Spr	2,800
Argyll Gp	1,500	NatWst Bk	1,900
Arjo Wiggn	1,000	Nat Power	2,200
AB Foods	356	Nth Wst W	1,600
BAA	725	P & O	815
BAT Inds	3,900	Pearson	1,200
BOC	422	PowerGen	883
BP	5,000	Prudential	1,100
BTR	5,700	RMC	213
BT	8,800	RTZ	2,400
Bk of Scot	1,300	Rank Org	2,200
Barclays	2,200	Reckitt Col	996
Bass	1,000	Redland	1,400
Blue Circle	1,900	Reed Intl	1,300
Boots	3,300	Rentokil	2,500
Bowater	1,800	Reuters	2,000
Brit Aero	868	Rolls Royce	7,100
Brit Airwys	4,700	Ryl Ins	1,800
Brit Gas	6,900	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Brit Steel	13,000	Sainsbury	3,300
Burmah Cstl	333	Schroders	60
Cable Wire	1,700	Scot & New	1,100
Cadbury	2,100	Scot Power	4,800
Caradon	1,400	Sears	4,500
Carlton Cms	784	Svrn Trent	1,300
Cm Union	1,300	Shell Trans	5,400
Courtaulds	1,800	Siebe	1,400
De La Rue	645	SmKl Bch	2,000
Eastern Elec	321	Smith Nph	647
Enterpr Oil	2,500	Sthern Elec	299
Forte	3,100	Std Chartd	2,300
GKN	952	Sun Allnce	1,100
GRE	1,900	TI Gp	933
GUS	766	TSB	994
Gen Acc	1,500	Tate & Lyle	569
Gen Elec	7,500	Tesco	4,200
Glaxo Well	4,800	Thames W	1,500
Granada	750	Thrn EMI	2,700
Grand Met	3,100	Tomkins	1,900
Guinness	1,900	Unilever	1,200
HSBC	4,200	Utd Bisc	1,100
Hanson	8,600	Vodafone	3,500
ICI	1,700	Warburg	1,200
Inchcape	1,100	Whitbread	294
Kingfisher	7,400	Wilms Hld	1,300
Ladbroke	4,100	Wolseley	1,800
Land Secs	1,600	Zeneca	1,200

WALL STREET

	May 19 midday	May 18 close
AMP Inc	41¼	42¾
AMR Corp	66¼	67¾
AT & T	50	49¾
Abbott Labs	37¾	37¾
Advanced Micro	34¾	34¼
Aetna Life	59	59¾
Ahmanson (HF)	22¼	22¼
Air Prod & Chem	51¼	51½
Albertson's	29¼	29¼
Alcan Aluminm	28¼	28¼
Alco Standard	70¾	71½
Allied Signal	39¼	39¼
Alum Co of Am	46	45¾
Amax Gold Inc	5¼	5¼
Amerada Hess	50¾	51½
Amer Brands	39¾	40¼
Amer El Power	32¾	32¾
Amer Express	34¾	35¼
Amer Genl Corp	33¼	33¼
Amer Home Pr	73¼	73¾
Amer Intl	111¼	112¾
Amer Stores	24¼	25
Ameritech	43¾	43¼
Amoco	67¼	67¼
Anheuser-Busch	57¾	57¼
Apple Computer	42¼	43¼
Archer Daniels	18¼	18¼
Armco	6¼	6¼
Armstrng Wrld	48¾	49¾
Asarco	27¾	27¼
Ashland Oil	36¼	36¾
Atl Richfield	113¾	113¾
Auto Data Pro	62¼	61¾
Avery Dennison	42¼	42¾
Avon Products	64	64
Baker Hughes	22¼	22¼
Baltim Gas & El	24	24
Banc One	31¼	32¼
BankAmerica	49¾	50
Bank of NY	36¼	36¼
Bankers Tr NY	58¼	57¼
Barnett Banks	47¼	47¼
Bausch & Lomb	40¼	40¼
Baxter Intl	33¾	33¼
Bectn Dicknsn	57¼	57¼
Bell Atlantic	53¼	53¼
Bell Industries	20¼	20¼
BellSouth	60¾	60¼
Black & Decker	30	30¼
Block (H&R)	37¾	38¼
Boeing	55¾	55¾
Boise Cascade	33¾	34¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	64¼	63¾
Browning Ferris	34¼	35¼
Brunswick	19¼	20¼
Burlington Nthn	57¾	58¼
CBS	64¼	64¼
CNA Financial	82¼	83
CPC Intl	57¾	58¼
CSX	75¾	76¼
Campbell Soup	46¾	47¼
Can Pacific	17¼	17¼
Cptl Cities ABC	88¼	88
Carolina Pwr	28	28
Caterpillar	59¾	60¼
Central & SW	24¼	24¼
Champion Intl	46¼	46¼
Chase Manhatn	46¾	47¼
Chemical Bk	44¼	45
Chevron Corp	47	48
Chrysler	42¾	42¼
Chubb Corp	82¼	84¼
Cigna Corp	72¾	73
Citicorp	49¾	50¼
Clorox	57¼	57¾
Coastal Corp	30¼	30¼
Coca Cola	57¼	57¼
Colgate-Palmolive	71¼	71¼
Columbia Gas	30	29¾
Compaq Comp	39¾	40
Comp Ass Intl	67¼	68¼
Conagra	31¼	31¼
Conrail	52¾	53¾
Cons Edison	28¼	28¼
Cons Nat Gas	38¼	38¼
Cooper Inds	38	38¼
Corning Inc	32¼	32¼
Crown Cork	40¼	41¼
Dana Corp	26¼	26¼
Dayton Hudson	67¼	67¼
Deere	84¼	86
Delta Air Lines	63¾	64
Deluxe Corp	30¼	30¼
Detroit Edison	28¼	28¼
Digital Equip	47	46¼
Dillard Dept St	27¼	27¼
Disney (Walt)	54	54
Dominion Res	37¼	37¼
Donelley (RR)	39¼	39¼
Dover Corp	65¾	67¼
Dow Chemical	71¼	71¼
Dow Jones	36¼	37
Dresser	21	23¼
Duke Power	39¼	40¼
Dun & Bradstreet	53¾	53¾
Du Pont	66¾	67
Eastman Kodak	59¼	59¼
Eaton Corp	56¼	55¼
Emerson Elec	68¾	69
Engelhard Corp	40¼	40¼

	May 19 midday	May 18 close
Enron Corp	35¼	35¼
Entergy	22¼	22¼
Ethyl Corp	11	11¼
Exxon	69¾	70¼
FMC Corp	62¾	63¼
FPL Group	36¾	36¼
Federal Express	61¼	62¼
Fed Nat Mtge	90¼	91¼
First Chicago	57¼	57¼
First Interstate	81	81¼
First Union Rlty	7¼	7¼
Fleet Fnl Grp	33¼	34¼
Fluor Corp	51¼	51¼
Ford Motor	28¼	28¾
GTE Corp	32¼	32¼
Gannett	53¼	53¼
Gap Inc Del	33¼	33¼
Gen Dynamics	44¼	45
Gen Electric	56¼	56¼
Gen Mills	58¼	58¼
Gen Motors	45	45¼
Gen Reinsurance	130	132¼
Gen Signal	37	37¼
Genuine Parts	38¼	38¼
Georgia Pac	77¼	78
Gillette	82¼	82¼
Glaxo Wellc ADR	21¼	22
Goodrich (BF)	49¼	49¼
Goodyear Tire	39¼	40¼
Grace (W&R)	58¼	59¼
Grt Atl Pac Tea	24	24¼
Great Wstn Fin	20¼	20¼
Halliburton	37¼	37¼
Harcourt General	40¼	41¼
Heinz (HJ)	43¼	43¼
Hercules	50¼	52¼
Hershey Foods	51¼	51¼
Hewlett Packard	68¼	68¼
Hilton Hotels	67	66¼
Home Depot	40	40¼
Homestake Mng	16¼	16¼
Honeywell	39	39
Household Intl	48¼	48¼
Houston Inds	40¼	40¼
Humana	20¼	20¼
ITT Corp	108¼	110¼
Illinois Tool	50¼	51
Illinova	23¼	23¼
INCO	25¼	25¼
Ingersoll Rand	37¼	37¼
Inland Steel	28	28¼
Intel Corp	112	110¼
IBM	93¼	93¼
Intl Flav & Fr	47¼	47¼
Intl Paper	78¼	79¼
James River Va	25	25¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	62¼	62¼
Kellogg	65¼	65¼
Kerr-McGee	53¼	54¼
Kimberly-Clark	56	56¼
Kmart	12¼	13
Knight-Ridder	55¼	55¼
Lilly (Eli)	71¼	71¼
Limited Inc	21¼	22¼
LIN Brdcstng	123¼	123¼
Lincoln Nat	43	43¼
Litton	36	36¼
Liz Claiborne	18¼	18¼
Lockheed Martin	58¼	59¼
Louisiana Pac	27	27
MCI Comm	20¼	20¼
Marriott Int	34¼	35¼
Marsh & McLnn	77¼	77¼
Masco Corp	28¼	28¼
May Dept St	37¼	37¼
Maytag Corp	16¼	16¼
McDonalds	35¼	36¼
McDonnell D	69¼	70¼
McGraw Hill	74¼	74¼
Mead Corp	52¼	52¼
Medtronic	74¼	74¼
Mellon Bk	42¼	42¼
Melville Corp	37¼	37¼
Merck Inc	41¼	41¼
Merrill Lynch	45¼	45¼
Minnesota Mine	57¼	57¼
Mobil Corp	97¼	99¼
Monsanto	81¼	81¼
Morgan (JP)	67¼	67¼
Motorola Inc	58¼	59¼
Natl Semi	26¼	26¼
Natl Service Ind	28¼	28¼
Navistar Int	15	15¼
NBD Bancorp	31¼	31¼
NY Times A	23¼	23¼
Newmont Mng	41¼	41¼
Niag Mohawk	13¼	14
Nike B	77¼	78¼
NL Industries	14¼	14¼
Noram Energy	6¼	6¼
Nordstrom	39¼	38¼
Norfolk Sthn	64¼	64¼
Nthn State Pwr	45¼	45¼
Norwest Corp	27¼	27¼
Nynex Corp	39¼	40
Occidental Pet	22¼	23¼
Ohio Edison	20¼	20¼
Oracle Systems	33¼	33¼
Oryx Energy Co	13¼	13¼
Owens Corning	37	37¼

	May 19 midday	May 18 close
PPG Industries	39¼	40
PNC Bank	25¼	25¼
Paccar Inc	40¼	40¼
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	25¼	25¼
Pac Gas & Elect	26¼	26¼
Pac Telesis	28¼	28¼
Pall Corp	21¼	22¼
Panhandle East	24¼	24¼
Parker Hannifin	53¼	54¼
Peco Energy	28¼	28¼
Penney (JC)	44¼	44¼
Pennzoil	49¼	50
Pepsico	43¼	44¼
Pfizer	83¼	81¼
Phelps Dodge	55	55¼
Philip Morris	68¼	68¼
Phillips Pet	35¼	35¼
Pitney Bowes	36¼	36¼
Polaroid	36¼	36¼
PriceCostco	14¼	14
Procter & Gmbl	68¼	68
Providian	35¼	35¼
Pub Serv E & G	27¼	28
Quaker Oats	34	34¼
Ralston Purina	48	47¼
Raychem Corp	34¼	34¼
Raytheon	74¼	75¼
Reebok Intl	34	33¼
Reynolds Metals	48¼	48¼
Roadway Srvs	46	45¼
Rockwell Intl	43¼	44¼
Rohm & Haas	59¼	59¼
Royal Dutch	120¼	123¼
Rubbermaid	30¼	30¼
SBC Comms	42¼	43¼
Safeco Corp	57¼	57¼
St Paul's Cos	48¼	49¼
Salomon Inc	39¼	40¼
Santa Fe Pac	22¼	12¼
Sara Lee Corp	26¼	26¼
Seecorp	16¼	16¼
Schering Plough	73¼	74¼
Schlumberger	64¼	64¼
Scott Paper	43	44
Seagram	28¼	28¼
Sears Roebuck	54¼	55¼
Shell Trans	71¼	71
Sherwin Wlms	35¼	35¼
Skyline Corp	18¼	18¼
Snap-On-Tools	35	35¼
Southern Co	20¼	20¼
Sprint Corp	32¼	32¼
Stanley Works	38¼	38¼
Sun Company	31¼	31¼
Sun Microsys	44¼	43¼
Suntrust	55¼	56¼
Supervalu	26¼	26¼
Sysco Corp	27	26¼
TRW Inc	72¼	72¼
TCC Inds	2¼	2¼
Tandem Comp	13¼	13¼
Tandy Corp	48¼	47¼
Teledyne	24¼	24¼
Temple Inland	44¼	44¼
Tenet Healthcare	16¼	16¼
Tenneco	46¼	46¼
Texaco	66¼	67¼
Texas Inst	119¼	120
Texas Utilities	33¼	33¼
Textron	57¼	57¼
Time Warner	39	39¼
Times-Mirror A	22¼	22¼
Timken	44	44¼
Torchmark	39¼	39¼
Toys R Us	24¼	25
Transamerica	57¼	57¼
Travelers	41¼	41¼
Tribune	58¼	59¼
Tyco Labs	53¼	54¼
UST Inc	28¼	29
UAL	112¼	114
USX Marathon	18¼	18¼
Unicom	26¼	26¼
Unilever NV	121¼	121¼
Union Camp	51¼	51¼
Union Carbide	29¼	29¼
Union Pacific	54¼	54¼
Unisys Corp	10¼	10¼
USAIR Group	7¼	7¼
USF&G Corp	16¼	16¼
US Life	37¼	37¼
US West	39¼	39¼
United Tech	72¼	73¼
Unocal Corp	29¼	29¼
Upjohn	34¼	34¼
VF Corp	53	53
WMX Tech	27¼	28¼
Wal-Mart Stores	24¼	24¼
Warner-Lambert	78¼	78¼
Wells Fargo	173¼	174¼
Westinghouse El	14¼	14¼
Weyerhaeuser	42¼	42¼
Whirlpool	54¼	55
Whitman	18¼	18¼
Winn Dixie	55¼	55¼
Woolworth	15¼	15¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	43¼	44¼
Xerox	117¼	117¼
Yellow Corp	20	20

BRAND OF HOPE 27

Well-known names can be used to sell investments

WEEKEND MONEY

REST IN PEACE 28

Paying for funerals in advance can have its drawbacks

Protecting the family home when death or redundancy strikes may prove difficult

When the taxman knocks on your door

Anne Ashworth examines a court ruling that offers hope for avoiding crippling inheritance tax

The stately homes of England how beautiful they stand, proving that the well-advised members of the upper classes can have the upper hand in their dealings with the taxman. For every heir to a once great name who is forced to part with his noble pile to settle taxes, there is another whose parents have arranged their affairs so that their ancestral acres pass to the next generation, without yielding a fortune to the Exchequer in inheritance tax, today's equivalent of estate duty.

Previously, the owners of more humble dwellings were excluded from such dynastically convenient arrangements. But the outcome of a controversial case heard in the High Court this week seems to give hope to families who would like to leave their houses to their children but know that they will be caught by the inheritance tax rules. This tax is payable at 40 per cent on the value of estates in excess of £154,000; the total amount includes your home. To catch those attempting to hand over their assets in their lifetimes, the tax is also charged on a sliding scale on transfers made within seven years of death. If the gift is made within three years of your demise, 80 per cent of the full charge is payable.

Much to the chagrin of the Inland Revenue, Mr Justice Ferris ruled in favour of an inheritance tax avoidance scheme, where the freehold of a property was transferred to a trust where the children and grandchildren were beneficiaries. This flew in the face of the previous rulings that such transactions are artificial.

Under the scheme, set up by the solicitors Norton Rose, the late Lady Ingram, widow of Sir Herbert Ingram, a stockbroker, gave away the freehold to her Berkshire home with its surrounding farmland to the trust in return for a 20-year rent-free lease. She remained in the property until her death, feeling secure that her three daughters and a grandchild would not be required to hand over a six-figure sum in inheritance tax.

Despite the pleas of the Inland Revenue, the judge ruled that the transfer of the freehold was not a "gift with reservation", where the donor retains some benefit, and thus subject to inheritance tax. He said: "Lady Ingram was no longer able to sell the freehold of the property and spend the proceeds on herself." The lease, he judged, was a "wasting, non-assignable asset, incapable of realisation".

Fearful of losing more than £500 million each year in revenue (the estimated haul from inheritance tax on properties) the Inland Revenue declared that it would appeal against the decision. To ensure that the loophole is plugged and wary of losing yet another round in court, the Government may be planning to change the law in the Budget. Meanwhile experts will continue to argue whether Ingram-type schemes with their steep set-up costs are the right solution for the family whose principal asset is their home.

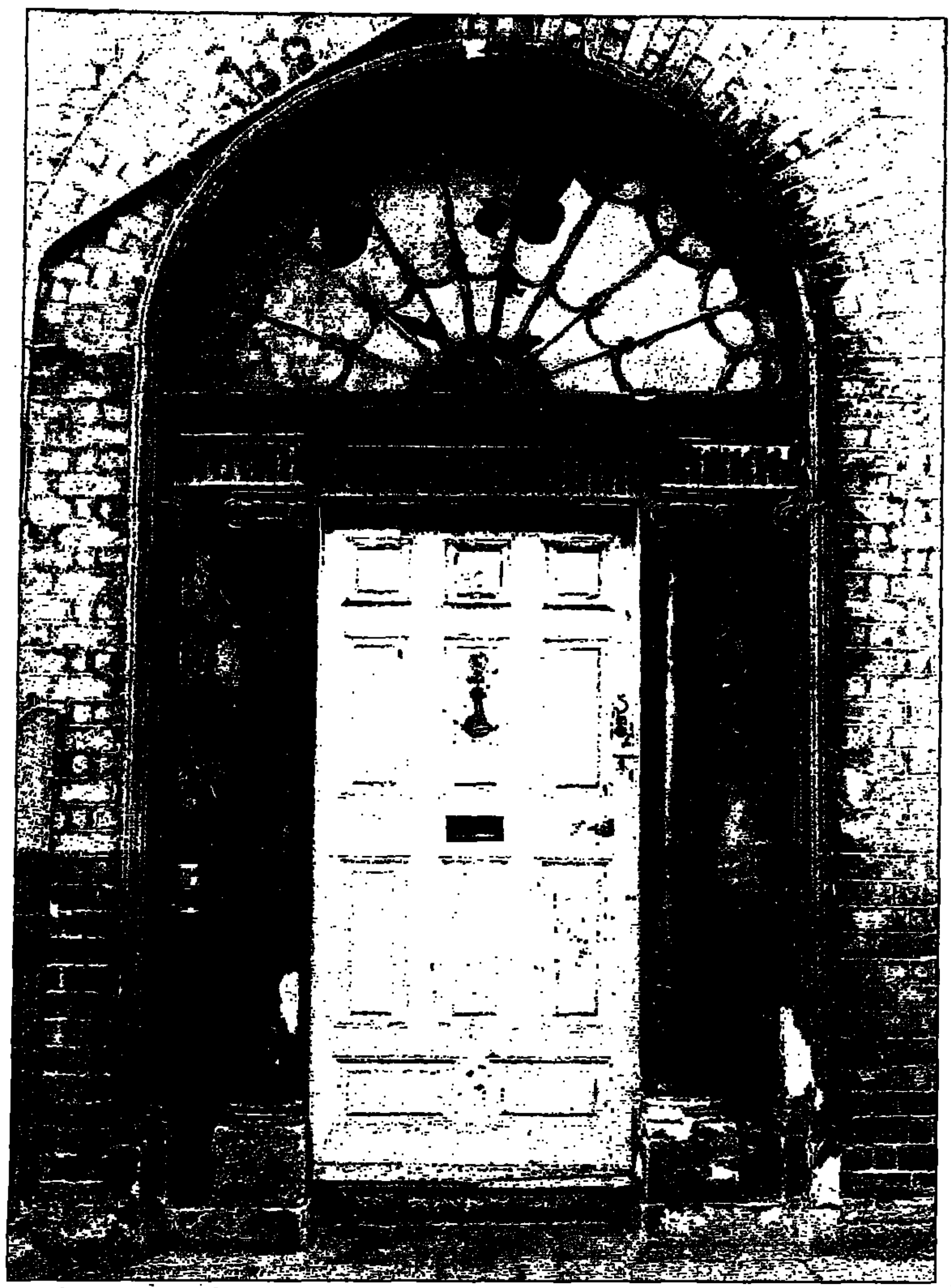
Nic Round, a financial adviser, represents the cynics. He says: "Anyone planning this type of move has got to take advice, as passing on assets via a trust cannot be undone." Michael Macfadyen, a Norton Rose partner and the Ingram family adviser, is more sanguine. He says: "With careful planning, families whose main asset is their home can use arrangements similar to those in the Ingram plan to mitigate inheritance tax. But those who have already set up such schemes need to look carefully at their documentation to decide whether it remains effective for tax purposes."

> ❛The Inland Revenue may be planning to change the law in the Budget❜

His colleague Catriona Syed, a tax planning specialist, predicts avoidance schemes with a variation on the Ingram model. "Instead of handing away their freeholds, elderly parents will grant their children a 999-year lease on the property coming into effect 15 years hence. The parents would continue to live in the property, as freeholders. But, as each year passed, the freehold would lose value, because the parents would not be entitled to live in the property when the lease came into effect. If they died towards the end of the 15-year period, the freehold would have a low value in their estate, all the value having passed into the 999-year lease, by then owned by the children."

Commenting on all such arrangements, Tony Foreman, author of *Don't Pay too much Inheritance Tax*, due out later this month, says: "Freehold transfer arrangements could mean large capital gains tax bills for children who sell the property after their parents' death. For example, if you do not plan for inheritance tax and leave your children a property worth £250,000, which is then sold, they will pay some inheritance tax. But there will only be a capital gains tax bill if the property fetches more than its value at death.

"In contrast, if you have entered into a freehold transfer scheme, the market value at death is irrelevant. Your children's 'base' for capital gains tax purposes will be the much lower figure for the value of the freehold when it was given to them."



Inheritance tax and repossession can threaten to leave even the most elegant of houses derelict

Pitfalls of home loan protection

Sara McConnell describes favourite ploys used by mortgage insurers to avoid paying

Only a tiny minority of home-owners in arrears succeed in claiming on mortgage payment protection policies taken out to cover their mortgage if they fall ill or lose their job. Borrowers' experiences published this week by government-sponsored researchers show that two-thirds of claims on payment protection policies were rejected because of hidden clauses in the small print or insurers' interpretations of their policies or, in one case, sheer administrative incompetence.

A quarter of borrowers in arrears with payments or facing repossession, and therefore in the most need, would have qualified for a policy when they first took out their loan and could have claimed when they got into difficulties. Of these fewer than one in ten would have succeeded in claiming.

These findings, published by the Department of the Environment, are the latest blow to government efforts to promote mortgage payment protection policies as an alternative to state help for jobless or sick borrowers. They appear to bear out the criticisms of lenders and housing advisers that existing private insurance policies are limited as well as expensive.

Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security, is now set to come under pressure from his own advisers to withdraw some of his most swingeing proposals for reducing income support to vulnerable groups. As *The Times* reported last week, the Social Security Advisory Committee, which advises Mr Lilley, is expected to urge him to withdraw proposals to abolish state help for vulnerable groups such as deserted partners, single parents and carers. It also wants him to delay restrictions which, from October 2, would give existing borrowers claiming income support no help for the first two months.

Mr Lilley is determined to press ahead with proposals to give no state help for the first nine months to new borrowers after October 2.

One borrower interviewed in the Department of the Environment's report found part-time work and had to repay the insurer, which pushed him into arrears: "Once a month they sent a form to be stamped by the job-centre, but because I found some part-time work, they stopped paying me and I had to pay back all they had paid me ... three months' mortgage ... £1,300, which was put on my mortgage and put me in arrears."

Another said: "I was told that the form had been put at the back of a drawer and forgotten, and the policy was not in force." This borrower was eventually repossessed. Others discovered the policy did not pay out after they remortgaged.

The Government continues to insist that private insurance will become more comprehensive once it is covering more people. Kew Insurance Services, a mortgage payment protection specialist, relaunched a policy this week promoting it as protection against income support restrictions. But it will not pay out on redundancy claims in the first 90 days of the policy and disability claims during the first 30 days. Even after these exclusion periods, new borrowers will have to wait 30 days before getting a payout if they are ill or out of work. Existing borrowers will have to wait 60 days. This means the policy would not pay out before the borrower could start claiming income support for half the loan under Mr Lilley's proposals. Kew Insurance said it was reviewing its policies.

WEEKEND MONEY
IS EDITED BY
ANNE ASHWORTH

Bear market dilemmas

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

These are uneasy times for share traders. To them, the timing of any but the most minor market fluctuations is crucial. When the market is not going up, it is going down; so they hedge in the futures market. It was hedging, and very little else, that pushed London lower late this week. Wall Street had fallen quite sharply on Thursday, reviving repeated forecasts of a correction after a long bull run, and the two markets nearly always do move in the same direction, if not for the same reasons or by the same amount. But what does this mean for the small investor: follow the professionals, treat weak prices as a buying opportunity, or just sit tight?

Wall Street bull market corrections are usually of the order of 10 per cent, which would be quite enough to justify selling by a small investor who happened to be blessed with perfect foresight. In the real world it is a bit different. Nobody gets the timing quite right, so you will sell and buy back a bit late. Allowing for dealing costs, you need to buy back at least 5 per cent cheaper than you sold for a worthwhile gain, so unless you are extremely twitchy, yet extremely good at knowing a turning point from a small technical correction, you will get the timing wrong, and lose.

That is before considering capital gains tax. Personally, I take my line from the *Financial Times* reader who wrote in when this unpopular tax was introduced: "Dear Sir. How do I qualify?" Take your profit, and pay up with a smile. That is the lesson of memory: I cannot remember any occasion when I was dissuaded from trading for tax reasons which I have not regretted. This is hardly a reliable guide, though; memory tends to skip over the occasions when one was wrong. Most people, as the trading volume figures suggest, lack confidence in their own timing, hate paying tax, and tend to sit tight; and much of the time, they are right.

Much of the time: but what about this time? If you look at this question through the eyes of an American investor, you may well feel uneasy all over again. The consensus is looking for a soft landing — a slowdown to a sustainable, non-inflationary rate of growth — but this is quite a narrow target, a path between two disasters. The apparent slowdown could be self-feeding and decimate profits; or it could be just a breather, so that the economy would soon get back into inflationary territory and deflate the bond market all over again. Both these views are passionately held by normally reliable US economists. Add the fact that recent statistics are hopelessly fogged by seasonal distortions, and the present bout of nerves explains itself.

Suppose the worst: something more than a bull market correction, though still less than a 1987 crash. What does this mean for London? The linkage, a largely technical matter, is not nearly as close as the events of one day may make it look. London took a long time to start following the Wall Street bull trend, and is still a long way behind: Wall Street has been setting new highs for weeks, but we are still well over 100 points short of the equity market peak at the beginning of 1984, and the Footsie has not nearly caught up with the rise in profits. If London is also to suffer a major correction, it will be for domestic reasons.

There are some, but they are far from conclusive. The most persuasive in the short run is the growing evidence that the Chancellor was right in his recent argument with the Bank over interest rates; the home economy is indeed slowing, and quite sharply. The news is in line with this column's bearish world view, but will dissipate a good deal of fatuous optimism.

But it is not all bad: a slowdown will speed the switch into exporting, which is the best promise for the long-term future; it will help sterling, and may prove very good news for gilts — and so equities, too. On balance, sit tight.

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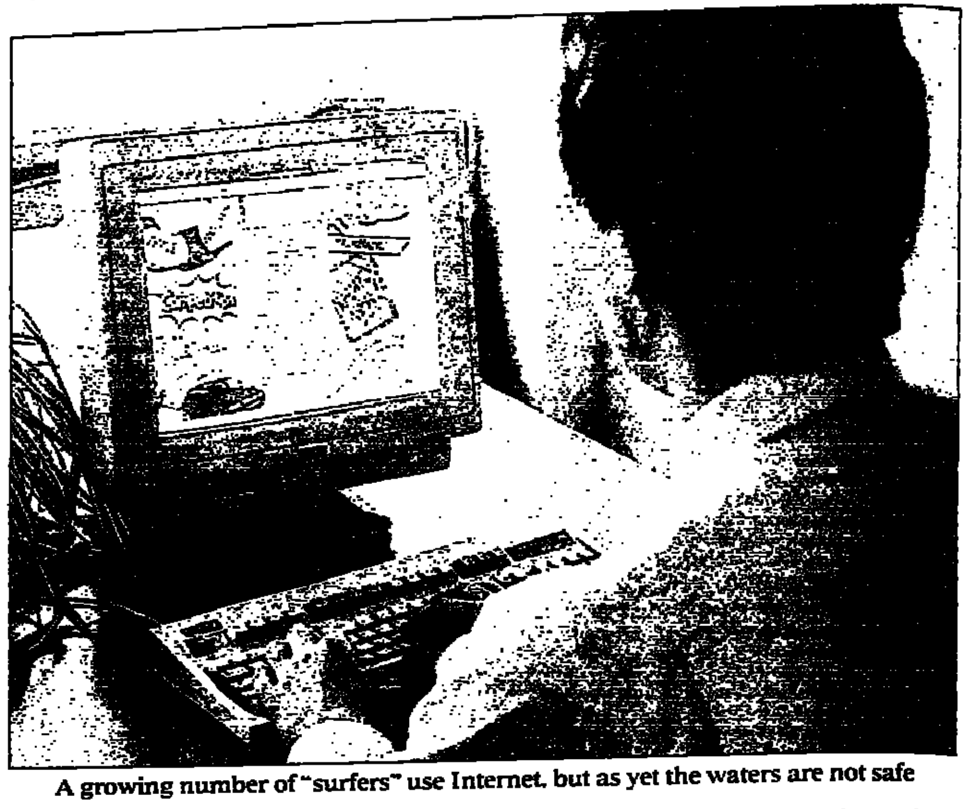
PIN problem solved soon, says **Morag Preston**

Cyber surfers of Internet must beware the sharks



A growing number of "surfers" use Internet. but as yet the waters are not safe

Three million merchants advertise their goods through the Internet, but with determined hackers haunting the electronic marketplace, credit card transactions are not yet advisable. Banks are telling clients not to tap in their personal identification numbers.

There are an estimated half a million Internet users in the UK and cyber-shoppers can order anything from smoked salmon to woollen tartans. CompuServe's electronic mall, which opened last month, already includes Sainsbury's, Dixons, WH Smith and Tesco. Another 25 retailers are expected to join the new service by the end of the year. but potential shoppers are worried that credit card numbers can be intercepted, and vendors are unable to authenticate credit card details.

Visa International and Microsoft, the computer software supplier, have signed an agreement to help to tackle the problem. Visa is optimistic that a payment system to authenticate buyers and sellers to secure transactions for clearing and settlement will be in place by the end of the year.

Nathan Myrhvold, senior vice-president, advanced technology, at Microsoft, said: "We are all street people on the information highway. We can't protect our privacy and information; we can't prove who we are; we can't buy anything." Based on encryption techniques the new technology will be available to other software vendors and card systems, to implement themselves or to license them from Microsoft.

Roger Alexander, managing director of Barclaycard's emerging markets unit, said: "Security is the major issue at the moment." Until encryption facilities are developed, confidential information, including Barclaycard account numbers, cannot be transmitted over the Internet. For the moment, customers can request a reissue of their PIN, advise a change of address, or report a damaged card.

For now, Sainsbury's customers can order wine via the Internet for home delivery by filling in a form and the details of any gift card message. Customers of Wine Direct can browse through pages of information that cover a seasonal selection of 40 wines, including images of the bottle and wine labels, but a follow-up call must be made to obtain credit card details.

The third edition of Barclaycard Netlink, an interactive magazine, providing information on services, was launched last week. More than 58,000 users have acccessed the service, the majority of whom are male professionals. Half are existing customers, which makes Internet a useful recruitment channel.

Barclaycard has also launched a travel information service on the Internet's World Wide Web.

Travellers can complete an on-screen form and will receive a quotation. The new service includes tips on driving abroad as well as competitions. But the growing army of "surfers" in search of a tangible purchase will have to wait until the shark-infested waters are made safer.

Guaranteed income bonds tax threat

Eagle Star shelves issue as Revenue considers action. **Caroline Merrell** reports

The high returns offered by guaranteed income bonds could be cut because of extra tax being considered by the Government. The Inland Revenue is believed to be proposing to apply capital gains tax to the gilt options which help to provide the guaranteed returns.

One insurance company, Eagle Star, has shelved plans to launch a guaranteed income bond because it fears that the additional tax would make the bond unviable. GIBs offer investors a high level of income for a period of up to five years. The original investment will also be returned to investors at the end of the term. Income is paid to investors net, and the total amount invested in GIBs has now reached over £1 billion. At the moment, many of the bonds pay a rate of more than 7 per cent. The extra tax could cut these returns by up to a fifth.

Insurers started using gilts to fund the guaranteed returns on bonds after they were stopped in last year's Budget from being allowed to reinsure the bonds offshore.

Any crackdown by the Inland Revenue should not affect the guaranteed income bonds that have already been sold, as the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for the insurance industry, is planning to issue new rules on the marketing of guaranteed products next week.

The new rules should ensure that even if the Revenue does introduce extra taxation, the insurance companies will have to honour the guarantee.

Scottish Widows sold about £330 million of bonds earlier on this year. Kevin Ward, of Scottish Widows, said: "There are all sorts of rumours about what might happen in the future. A lot of it is just hearsay. It is not possible to predict what is going to happen."

He said the company would honour the guarantees made to investors. The bond paid an income of 7.4 per cent a year for five years, or paid a total return of 44 per cent at the end of the five-year term.

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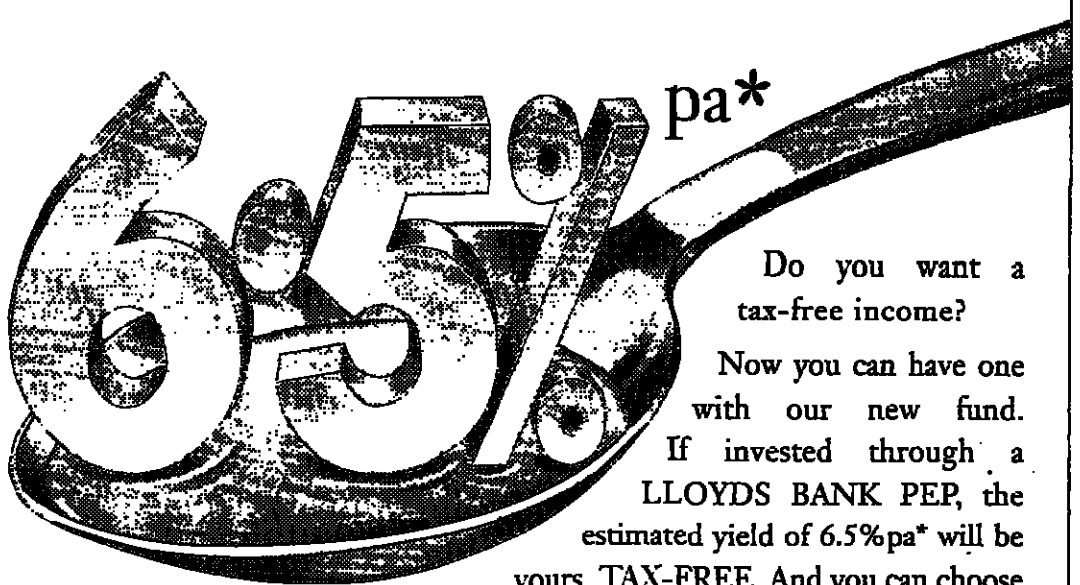

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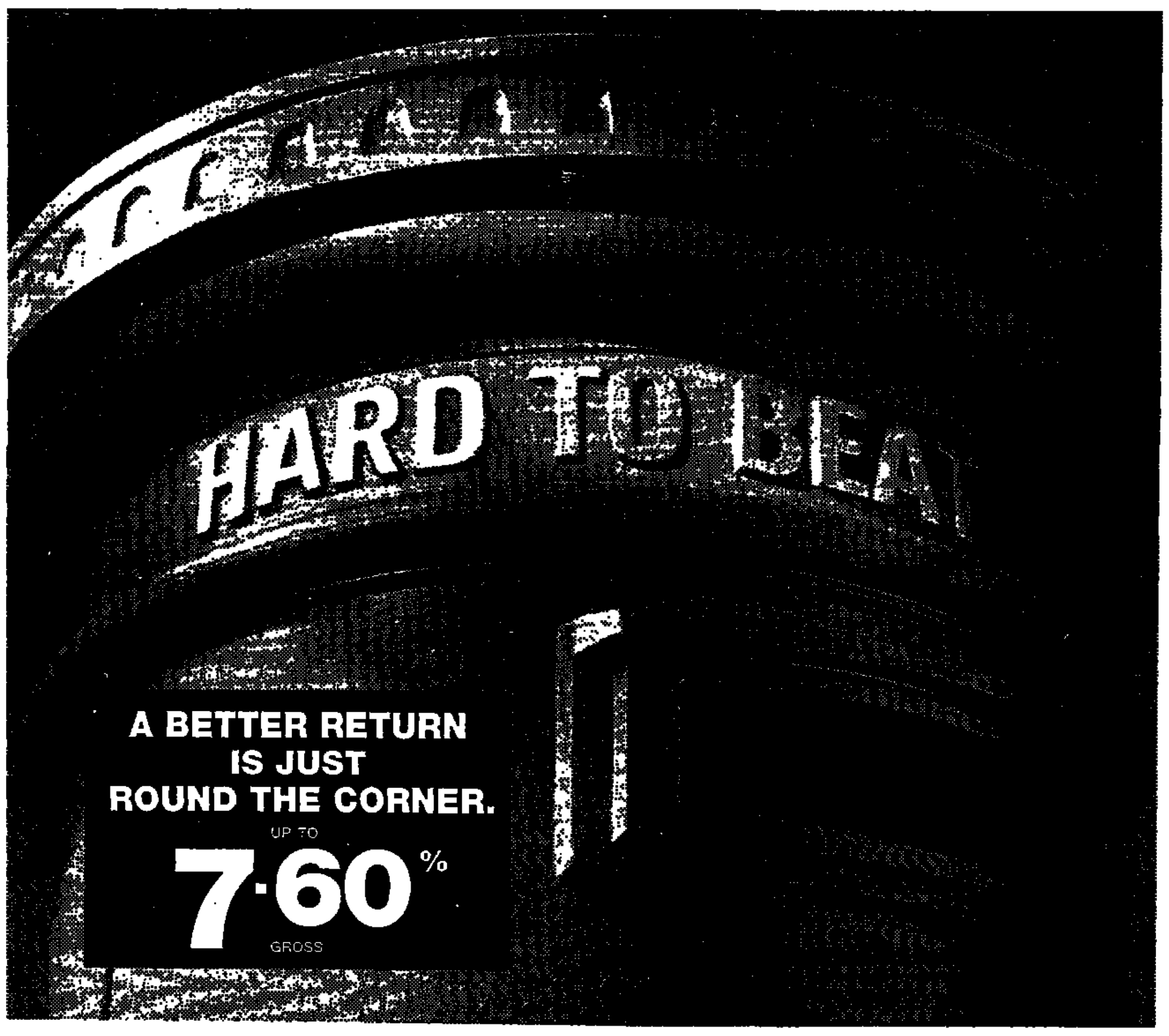

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Robert Miller on the arrival of big-name funds

Placing trust in brands

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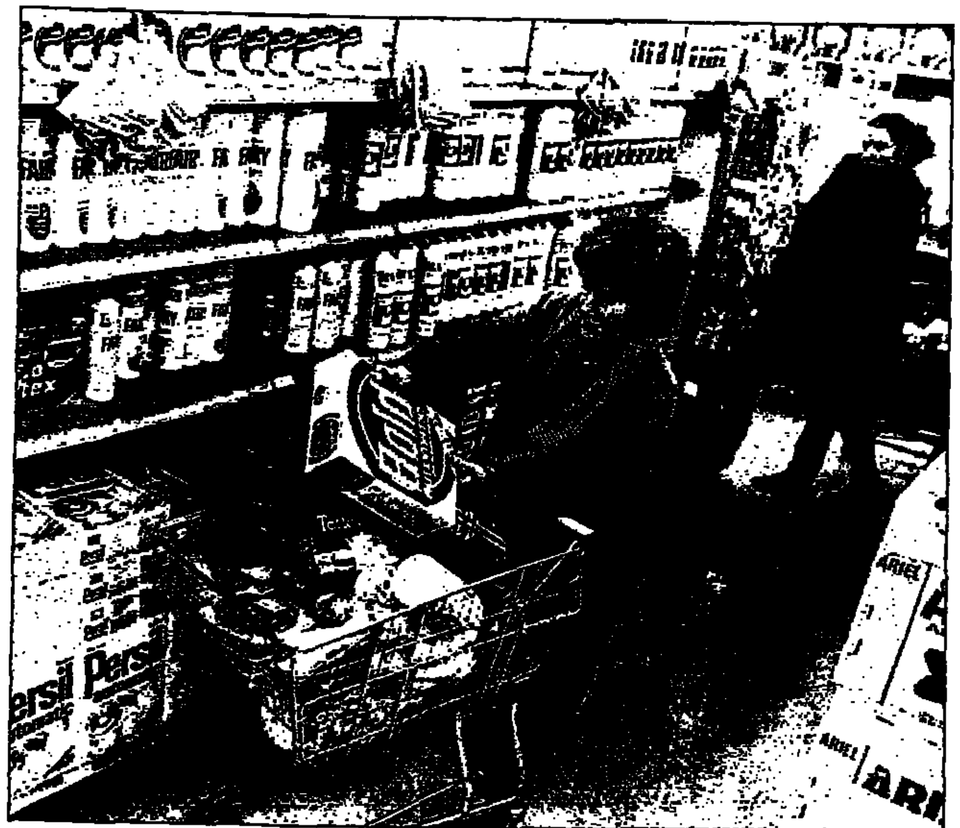

Market values: can the principles of selling soap powder apply to unit trusts?

Picking a unit trust is no different from selecting a particular soap powder or any other branded good. This week, for example, Richard Branson's Virgin Group followed up the successful launch of a unit trust Pep with Virgin Vodka.

People buy these goods because they have faith in the brand name and expect the company supplying the goods to provide quality. For unit trust investors this means a reasonable investment return.

One of the features which separates successful retailers from the herd, whether they sell financial services or other goods, is their ability to branch out into different areas using a brand name to attract already loyal followers and, hopefully, some new ones. M&S, for example, has followed its successful unit trust foray with the launch of its own-brand life and personal pension plans.

The traditional fund management houses face stiff competition in the £100 billion unit trust market. True, world stock market conditions have been volatile over the last 18 months making decent returns had to find. Decent in this context means matching or beating the performance of similar trusts. And in many cases it has been achieved by the relative newcomers.

Nor are the recent arrivals confined to famous retail brands like M&S and Virgin. The Woolwich and Leeds Permanent building societies, NatWest Bank, Abbey National and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) are also pitching hard with their unit trusts.

What distinguishes these new entrants is that they avoid high risk or esoteric funds and they do not want to be top dog. As Robert Colvill, managing director of M&S's financial services arm, puts it: "We would rather have a good performance than a surprisingly excellent one. If we did, we would be taking a higher degree of risk than our customers want." According to the latest Micropal figures M&S has outperformed the average of similar trusts consistently. So too, over shorter lives, have some NatWest, RBS and Woolwich trusts.

Virgin's Will Whitehorn says: "Virgin means three things: value for money, quality and innovation. We aim to perform consistently in most circumstances rather than trying to be number one." He compares buying the Virgin unit trust with buying goods direct from the manufacturer.

The Virgin appeal should not be underestimated and puts paid to the dire warnings given to Richard Branson to stear clear of financial services. In the ten weeks since launch, Virgin Direct has sold some 15,000 Pep plans and pulled in £54 million.

The new entrants to the market have done a singular service for investors. Not only are they selling unit trusts to a wider audience but they are also providing new and realistic benchmarks by which investors can gauge performance. Their low-risk portfolios give comfort to nervous investors. That has to be good news.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Why insurers cannot deliver

Our age enjoys a touching belief in the power of insurance to cure all ills, including solving problems that have become too awkward or expensive for the State, such as supporting homebuyers who have lost their jobs.

Such trust is bound to be misplaced, for the simple reason that insurers cannot afford, in the interests of either shareholders or existing policyholders, to underwrite every risk.

To survive, they must embrace mortgage borrowers in permanent work seeking to protect their payments against unemployment and reject applicants on short-term contracts.

Past experience, and the knowledge of its own failings, also makes the insurance industry rather wary of obliging politicians. Although ministers maintain that insurers are developing new policies suited to today's different working patterns, insurance companies know that a chance to appeal to a new audience brings out their basest instincts.

The Serps episode is a case in point. The reduction in the state earnings related pension scheme and the introduction of personal pensions gave insurance companies the chance to sell their wares to millions of financially unsophisticated employees.

Seven years later, the result of the insurers' efforts could be a sizeable compensation bill to those improperly advised to leave the state scheme.

Fearful of more bad publicity, insurers will resist government pressure to widen the scope of their policies. Better to turn away a customer now than raise false hopes. Although some groups have modified their terms, the improvements are largely cosmetic.

The damning Department of Environment report says that, at present, you have only a one in ten chance of claiming successfully under these policies. This is unlikely to change.

At the building societies conference this week there was sympathy with the insurance companies' viewpoint. Ministers, however, remain unbending. Caught in the middle are thousands of borrowers who are now realising that they will qualify neither for state nor private sector help, if disaster strikes.

Find out why pension plans are not all the same.

Perhaps you think that all pension plans are the same. If you do, then you would be making a big mistake. Here are some of the reasons why you should consider an Equitable Pension Plan.

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An unfriendly approach to investors' annuity payout

Caroline Merrell reports on the problems friendly society savers can experience

Friendly societies seem to offer people with little cash to spare a tax efficient method of building up savings. However, the attraction of saving a maximum of £25 a month in a tax-free environment can be outweighed by some of the problems faced by friendly societies.

Surveys show the products offered by these societies are among the most expensive in the industry, and one society, the Lancashire & Yorkshire, was recently forced to levy its members because of poor investment decisions.

The problems associated with friendly societies are highlighted again by recent action taken by Family Assurance. The society has written to 11,000 policyholders with investments worth £180 million warning them that it can no longer guarantee the income levels on annuities for policies yet to mature.

The problem concerns investors who took out policies with Time Assurance, subsequently taken over by Family Assurance. The fund, which originally had 23,000 policyholders, was closed in 1988. Since then, policies in the fund have been coming to maturity, with the proceeds used to buy an annuity with the society.

In a letter to policyholders, the society said: "A closed fund of this nature poses certain technical difficulties to do with the variations of investment returns and mortality experience.

"When any policy reaches maturity, and the member elects to take the benefits from it as an annuity (ie, draw a pension from it) a final distribution of profits in the fund is known as a terminal, or vesting, bonus.

"From now on the terminal, or vesting, bonus will be subject to review, both before and after maturity." The terminal bonus represents 15 per cent of the pension.

This means policyholders cannot be sure that the income level paid by the pension at maturity will continue to be paid. The change has alarmed one policyholder, Keith Manson, from Manchester. He said: "It is most unlikely that the society have done what they have done unless they fear that they will not be able to meet future annuities in full from their initial fixing."

The Registry of Friendly Societies, which regulates the sector said that Family's action was a commercial decision and, therefore, was not of concern to it.

Policyholders in this position should remember that they are not obliged to buy a Family annuity when their policies mature.

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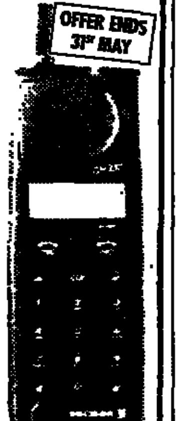

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Sara McConnell looks at the pitfalls of pre-payment

The Office of Fair Trading has called on the Government to bring in legislation that will safeguard funeral plan investments

Play safe with funeral plans

The ultimate blow to anyone who has been organised enough to pay for their own funeral in advance is to find that the money has disappeared into the pocket of the company selling the plan. Almost as bad is the discovery that the company has collapsed and you cannot get your money back.

As the law stands, there are no rules to prevent either of these things if you buy a prepaid funeral plan. Such plans are not covered by existing regulations. In a hard-hitting report this week, the Office of *Fair Trading* called on *the* Government to bring in legislation to safeguard funeral plan investments. It also wants existing selling and marketing codes to be tightened up to stop unsolicited marketing of plans to nursing home residents and hospital patients, and clearer explanations of what a plan will cover.

But new rules will take time to put in place, even if the Government accepts the OFT recommendations. So if you buy a plan, what do you have to watch out for in the meantime?

■ **Where your money is actually going.** With most plans you invest a lump sum (the average amount is £1,000, which will pay most of the costs of an average funeral — see box). Ask where the money will be invested. The best arrangement is that your money is immediately paid into a trust administered by trustees independent of the plan provider. This is not totally watertight, because many trusts are written in favour of the company rather than you, the consumer, if the company collapses, but it is better than nothing. Alternatively, your money should be paid into a client account separate from the company's normal business account. The codes of practice of the National Association for Pre-Paid Funeral Plans (NAPFP) and the Funeral Planning Council (FPC), the two trade associations for such plans, do not, however, insist that all the trustees are independent, although they do specify separate trusts or client accounts.

The OFT found that some companies had no separate accounts, but counted funeral payments as part of their business income. This means you might get nothing if the company collapsed — you would be treated like any other unsecured creditor. Under the OFT proposals, all pre-payments would go into an independently administered trust drawn up in favour of consumers.

■ **How the money will be invested.** Is your investment being held on deposit? This is the safest method though some trustees use gilts or equities instead. But the OFT found that some had wide powers to invest in what they liked, including the company's own ventures. The OFT wants trustees to be banned from using high-risk investments.

■ **What fees are being deducted.** The OFT found that plan providers deducted fees of between 3 and 5 per cent of average funeral prices. One deducted as much as 25 per cent. Ask what will be deducted *from your investment. The* OFT says fees for plan providers should be taken only from any surplus within the fund, as certified by an actuary.

■ **What your plan covers.** Make sure you know what your plan will pay for and what you will have to pay for. Some companies, including Chosen Heritage, the largest provider, do not fully cover the cost of "disbursements", including doctors, clergy and cremation fees. Check if you can choose your own funeral director *and who is* responsible for arrangements, the funeral director or plan provider. You should also find out if you can cancel your plan. If you can, do you get all your money back or only some? The OFT wants regulations to force companies to give clear explanations of their plans.

■ **How well established the company is.** Find out how long it has been running. This is not an absolute failsafe, but a long-established company is *more likely to be there when* the time comes. Also check if the company is a member of a trade association. The NAPFP and the FPC are the two trade associations for pre-payment plan providers and each has a code of conduct for members.

THE COSTS OF A FUNERAL

	1987 £	1993 £	increase %
Funeral directors services	143	305	113
Hire of hearse	52	81	56
Hire of additional vehicle	53	66	25
Coffin	169	240	42
Removal of body	35	61	74
Sub-total	452	753	67
Disbursements	167	287	72
Overall total	619	1040	68

These are average figures for each of the two years.
Source: OFT Survey 1987 and Mintel 1994

Who to go to when things go wrong

Forget the idea that the funeral industry is staid and gentlemanly. It is riven with political differences. Each faction has its own trade association and links with complaints-handling bodies. There are only 600,000 funerals a year, *with a further 150,000 people buying* pre-paid funeral plans, but these have spawned four trade associations.

These associations fall into two main camps. The Co-operative movement dominates the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) and the Funeral Planning Council (FPC), for providers of funeral plans. Almost everyone else, including Chosen Heritage and Dignity, the two largest funeral plan providers, is on the other side, belonging to the National Association for Pre-Paid Funeral Plans (NAPFP) which is closely associated with the National Association of Funeral *Directors (NAFD).*

The Co-operative movement and allies left the NAPFP in 1992 after accusing it of failing to make members adhere to its code of practice. The funeral ombudsman sits in the middle, endorsed by the FPC but not the NAPFP.

■ Geoffrey Woodroffe, the funerals ombudsman, handles complaints about all sorts of funerals, not just pre-paid ones, but he can deal with complaints only about funeral organisers and providers who have chosen to be members of the scheme. Only half the funerals industry has joined. He can make awards of up to £50,000.

■ *Members of the Funeral Planning* Council selling pre-payment plans have to be members of the Funeral Ombudsman Scheme as part of their code of practice.

■ The National Association of Pre-Paid Funeral Plans has its own conciliation and arbitration scheme, run by independent arbitrators. The complainant will pay £25 to cover the cost of arbitration.

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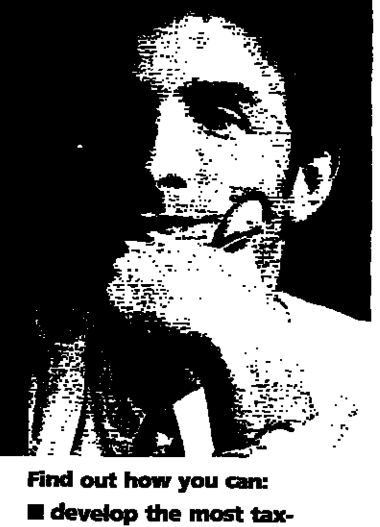

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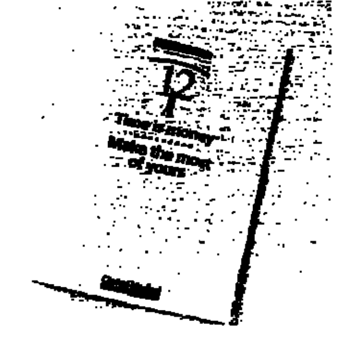

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Insurers' bill may soar for errors over Serps

SIB could force review of cases where older and low-paid people were wrongly advised, says Jean Eaglesham

IMAGE BANK

Thousands of low-paid people could be left with virtually worthless pensions

The £3 billion-plus bill for pension transfers could soon be swelled by compensation to low-paid or older people who have been wrongly advised to opt out of the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) into a personal pension plan. Hundreds of thousands of people were encouraged to divert contributions to Serps into personal pensions in the late 1980s. The Government sanctioned it with generous extra payments. But many who took out their own pensions were on low earnings and thus making only small Serps contributions. Most of their contribution was eaten up by high pension plan charges.

The Securities and Investments Board is due to decide by this summer whether to force insurers to review cases of those advised to opt out of Serps. If it fails, thousands of low-paid people could be left with virtually worthless pensions. "It is going to be a very significant problem," says Andrew Warwick-Thompson, of advisers Bacon and Woodrow.

A survey by *The Times* found that only the Pearl actively reviews whether policyholders are earning so little that they would be best advised to go back into Serps. Other leading insurers said this check was down to the policyholder's financial advisers. But, as Lexis, the independent adviser, says: "It is difficult to imagine advisers who get an annual commission deciding to end that income by telling people to opt back in."

A survey last year by Bacon and Woodrow, the actuary, found that someone earning £9,000 who took out a plan with General Accident, Legal and General or M&G would have all of their rebate going to pay charges during the first year they were opted out. However, Michael Power of Lexis, says that until recently "advisers used the standard charges set by Lautro [the regulator] to project what the pension might be worth. But the real charges for practically all companies are much higher. An awful lot of people who are contracted out shouldn't be".

One difficulty for regulators is the wide variation in the guidelines used by insurers in recommending who should opt out. While Prudential, for example, recommends that anyone earning less than £10,000 is better off not opting out, NPI sets an earnings threshold of £4,000 (increasing to £6,000 for men under 43 and women under 40). Similarly, Royal Life sets a threshold of £4,500 for men aged up to 45 and women up to 40.

Some companies advise women to opt out only if they will be making additional contributions to the pension, on top of the National Insurance rebate. According to Peter Timberlake, of L&G, the main reason is that women need to build up a bigger fund to get the same pension on retirement, since annuity rates are lower for women than men as they retire earlier. But few other insurers appear to share these scruples, setting guidelines that allow advisers to recommend women in their late thirties or even older to take out a rebate-only pension. Many insurers do now trawl their records to check, by age, whether policyholders should be advised to contract back into Serps. The "vast majority" of policyholders will act on this advice, said an Allied Dunbar spokesman. Royal Life said it had compensated about 50 people who were over the age where they should have stayed in Serps.

But some insurers rely on advisers to do these checks. Alan Goodman, of Standard Life, said: "We have got quite a number of people who are over the age where they should contract back in, but we leave it up to the independent financial advisers." Insurers do not have to check whether policyholders are still eligible for contracting out. Nor do they have to review whether policyholders should stay opted out if the plan was sold by an independent adviser. The cost of this may become clearer when SIB reports on opt-out in the summer and estimates the compensation bill.

Ins and outs of opting out

If *your employer has a* contracted-out final salary scheme, you can't go wrong by joining it (and contracting out yourself). If the scheme pays a lower pension than you would have got through Serps, the State will make up the difference.

If you are not an employee, the decision is again a simple one: you will not be paying into Serps, so you cannot contract out. But for everyone else, the decision on whether to opt out or not is more complex.

Opting out means trading the apparent certainty of the state-run scheme for the risks (and rewards) of the stock market. So the decision will depend partly on your view about future investment performance and your attitude to risk. NatWest, for example, advises anyone who wants low or no risk to stay opted in.

Important factors to consider when deciding how to fund a nest-egg for retirement

The other two key factors are your earnings and how old you are. Insurers' guidelines on both factors vary but, as a rule of thumb, most experts advise anyone earning less than £10,000 to stay opted in. Similarly, men aged 45 or over and women aged 35 or over are currently usually best advised to stay in Serps or opt back in. This is set to change in April 1997, when the amount of NI rebate will become age-related.

If the Government gets its sums right, this should mean that the value (or otherwise) of opted out would no longer depend on age, and policyholders can stay opted out for all of their working lives without being financially disadvantaged.

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To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me details of your PEP offer and how to transfer any non M&G PEP.
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Mr/Mrs/Miss INITIALS SURNAME
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EXTRA INCOME FUND
HURRY APPLY BY 31st MAY FOR SPECIAL DISCOUNTS
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EXTRA INCOME FUND
HIGH REGULAR INCOME
TAX-FREE THROUGH A PEP
NO INITIAL CHARGE*
NO EXIT FEE
NO.1 IN SECTOR†

Extra Income Fund offers you a high regular income, currently around 5.8% pa gross. Tax-free if you invest through a PEP.

There is no initial charge* on investments of £6,000 or more before the 31st May. No exit fee at any time.

Extra Income Fund invests in a mixture of blue-chip UK shares like BT, British Gas, ICI and Shell as well as gilts and fixed interest securities. So there are good prospects of income and capital growth. The Fund is also number one in its sector of 54 funds since launch.†

Check the list above and you will see why Extra Income Fund could be your best PEP choice. Find out more by talking to your Financial Adviser, filling in the coupon or ringing our free Moneyline. But to take advantage of our special discounts you must invest before 31st May 1995.

†Source: Micropal 6 months to 1.4.95 offer to bid basis.

*THE INITIAL CHARGE IS NORMALLY 2%. THIS CHARGE IS REDUCED TO 1% FOR AMOUNTS BETWEEN £4,000 AND £5,999 AND NIL FOR AMOUNTS OF £6,000 OR MORE, INVESTED BEFORE 31/5/95.

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THE INVESTMENT HOUSE
A member of the Flemings Group

To: Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.
1698/014/RA

Please send me details of Save & Prosper's Extra Income Fund.

Mr/Mrs/Miss
Address
Postcode
Home Tel (STD) No
Work Tel (STD) No
So that we may call and offer further information.

PART OR ALL OF THE ANNUAL CHARGE WILL BE CHARGED TO CAPITAL, ALTHOUGH THIS WILL ENHANCE THE INCOME DISTRIBUTED, IT MAY REDUCE CAPITAL PERFORMANCE. THE VALUE OF INVESTMENTS AND ANY INCOME FROM THEM, CAN FALL AS WELL AS RISE AND YOU MAY NOT GET BACK THE FULL AMOUNT YOU INVESTED. TAX CONCESSIONS CAN CHANGE AND THEIR VALUE WILL DEPEND ON YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A GUIDE TO FUTURE RETURNS. SAVE & PROSPER GROUP ONLY MARKETS ITS OWN PRODUCTS AND IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND IMRO

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

New guides to old problems

There are four new additions to the Which? Consumer Guide series. According to *Wills and Probate*, lawyers make more money from sorting out poorly drafted home-made wills than they do drawing up wills from the start. The 234-page book explains how to make your will properly, how to word clauses, and how to sign as well as witness the document. Using case studies, the £10.99 book explains how to administer an estate, even when there *is no will, and where to look* for tax savings.

What to Do When Someone Dies provides helpful information to cope with the practicalities of a death. The book, which costs £9.99, explains how to get a doctor's certificate, register a death, decide between burial and cremation and choose a funeral director and coffin. Putting notices in the paper, selecting the form of service, and claiming state benefits are also explained.

The rights of landlords and tenants are covered in *The Which? Guide to Renting and Letting*. Common problems that arise from tenancy agreements, including outdated forms and failure to do repairs, are discussed in the 228-page book, which costs £10.99.

As a practical fallback, *120 Letters that Get Results*, shows how to write an effective complaint. The £9.99 book details your legal rights and the correct legal vocabulary, from the initial contact to going to court. The series is available from most bookshops, or call 0800 252100.

The *J Rothschild Assurance Tax Guide 1995-96*, published by Orion, is the latest entry to the competitive tax-aid market. Written by Walter Sinclair, the 470-page guide includes tax saving hints for private and professional individuals, as well as companies. At a cost of £19.99, the guide is available at most bookshops.

There are only three new-style corporate bond Peps on the market, which were introduced as a result of changes in last November's Budget, but a *flood of them are expected* later in the year. *The Guide to Corporate Bond PEPs*, published by Chase de Vere Investments, highlights the benefits and disadvantages of the new plans for investors. The 12-page guide details the risks of what will be a competitive market, and spells out Pep terminology. Call 0800 526 092 for a free copy.

MORAG PRESTON

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
B&W Asset 0800 303330	Instant Acc	Postal	£10,000	6.45	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.75	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Fixed Rate Bond	31.5.99	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly
Woolwich BS 0800 400900	2 Year Fixed	2yr bond	£500	8.00	F/Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500	Investmnt Certs	5yr bond	£1,000	8.60	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	3 Year Fixed	1.9.98	£5,000	8.25	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
CLF Municipal Bank 0171 799 3322		5 year	£50	7.50	Yly
Barclays Bank 0800 400100		5 year	£1,000	7.50	A/Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	18.90%	£10 E

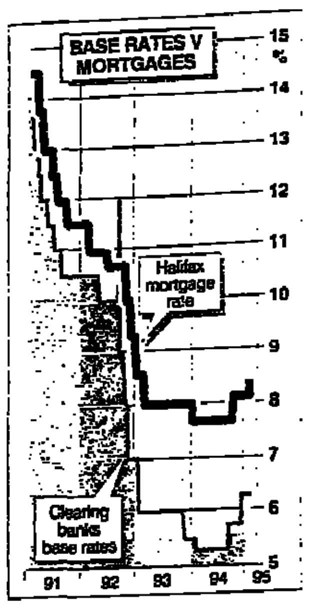
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

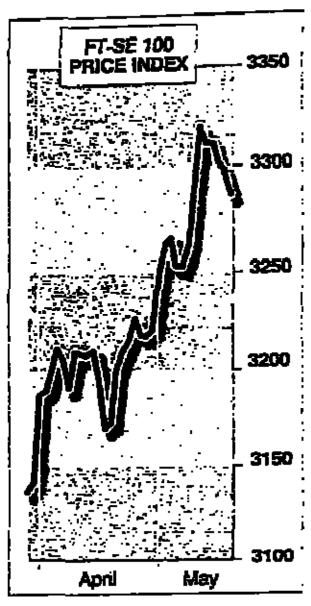
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Abbey National 01908 680140	16.9%	£117.41	£105.05

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE • PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362535
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000	60day	01253766151

First £70 (£140 joint) of int tax free [illegible] accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free ³Rates gross and vble ⁴Guaranteed when held for 5 years ⁵0.3% net bonus for £20,000-£40,000 ⁶In addition to S1 holdings *Taxable but cred in full

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Life .... Level	£10,599	£11,645	£12,984
Prudential .... Level	£10,598	£11,606	£12,965
Royal Life .... Level	£10,414	£11,539	£13,067
Canada Life .... Level	£10,339	£11,500	£13,073
Generali .... Level	£10,543	£11,562	£12,892

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nrch Union .... Level	£9,797	£10,530	£11,619
Royal Life .... Level	£9,688	£10,511	£11,731
Equit Life .... Level	£9,554	£10,375	£11,507
Generali .... Level	£9,656	£10,490	£11,651
Prudential .... Level	£9,851	£10,575	£11,641

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Nrwch Uni .... Level	£9,376	£9,921	£10,708
Equit Life .... Level	£9,162	£9,787	£10,644
Royal Life .... Level	£9,238	£9,868	£10,773
Prudential .... Level	£9,468	£10,027	£10,815
Generali .... Level	£9,310	£9,918	£10,761

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by Morag Preston

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at May 16 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Premium Life	4.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.80
	50,000	AIG Life	6.05
	100,000	AIG Life	6.10
2 Years	3,000	Gan Life	5.20
	5,000	AIG Life	6.45
	50,000	AIG Life	6.55
	100,000	AIG Life	6.60
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	5.70
	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.80
	10,000	Eurolife	6.90
	25,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	5,000	Financl Asrnce	6.80
	20,000	Financl Asrnce	6.90
	50,000	Financl Asrnce	7.00
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
	3,000	Eurolife	6.70
	5,000	Eurolife	6.90
	10,000	Eurolife	7.10
	25,000	Eurolife	7.20
	50,000	Eurolife	7.27

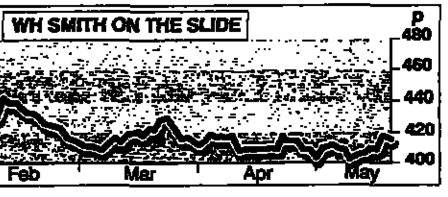
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	*9.375%*	*92.72*	*10.100*	*100.17*	*1,000*
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	115.20	10.086	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	128.27	10.120	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	130.00	10.273	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	126.38	10.278	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	120.74	9.719	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	117.70	10.279	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	107.39	10.934	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	90.12	9.702	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	121.19	9.748	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	139.06	9.783	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	130.02	10.277	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	*10.750%*	*105.66*	*10.171*	*100.32*	*1,000*
Newcastle	12.625%	124.74	10.104	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	124.99	10.093	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	125.62	10.240	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	101.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	9.50156%	103.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial 0800 808085	*2.95*	neg	*90*	*5.5% discount* for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.7.96
Banks				
Abbey National Local branch	2.99	neg	75	5.35% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	to £100k	95	7.45%dsc-6mnths 2%dsc-6mnths .5%dsc-12mnths
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0800 378 836	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-1.1.96 3% dsc-1.7.96
Ulster Bank 0800 262062	1.39	£10k+	95	7.00% discount to 1.11.95

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0800 774499	*1.25*	*to 150k*	*70*	*7.14% discount* for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 446776	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Abbey National Local branch	3.15	neg	75	5.19% discount to 30.6.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	467.80	495.10	-1.10	...
UK Equity	588.30	622.60	-2.30	...
Property	492.80	521.50	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest	327.30	346.30	-0.70	.
Money	254.50	269.40	+0.20	
International	386.80	409.40	-1.40	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	278.70	293.40	...	...
-do- Acc	526.30	554.10	...	...
Equity Fd Inc	176.30	185.60	-1.70	0.0
-do- Acc	235.00	247.40	-2.30	0.0
Selective Fd	506.80	533.50	-0.20	0.0
Money Fd	384.40	404.70	+0.30	.
Prop Fd Ser 4	410.20	431.80	...	...
Equity Ser 4	223.50	235.30	-1.30	...
Man Ser 4	675.90	711.50	-3.60	0.0
Conv Ser 4	333.90	351.50	+0.30	...
Money Ser 4	333.50	351.10	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	355.00	373.70	+2.50	0.0
American Ser 4	501.60	528.10	-1.60	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	694.90	731.50	-1.20	0.0
Indexed Inv Ser 4	219.70	231.30	+1.70	0.0
Japan Ser 4	338.60	356.50	-4.70	0.0
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£15.71	£16.54	-1.80	...
European Fd Acc	383.00	403.10	-1.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	517.80	545.00	+3.40	...
Gtd Money Acc	339.80	357.60	+0.20	...
Intl Managed Acc	614.30	646.60	+2.00	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	338.10	355.80	+0.80	...
Japan Fund	240.60	253.20	-4.70	...
N American Acc	335.80	353.40	+3.40	...
Prop Fd Acc	445.30	468.60	+0.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	£10.42	£10.97	-0.60	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	379.20	399.20	+0.60	...
Equity Acc	£14.30	£15.06	-14.80	...
Property Acc	587.80	618.80	+0.40	...
Far East Acc	307.20	323.40	-3.70	...
Managed Capital	532.60	560.70	-4.20	...
-do- Acc	£10.99	£11.57	-8.40	...
Overseas Acc	966.10	£10.17	-6.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	494.30	520.40	+4.00	...
Amer Equity Acc	824.70	868.20	-6.90	...
Amer Man Acc	349.50	367.90	-2.90	...
Amer Prop Acc	116.90	123.10	-0.50	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	161.50	169.90	+0.30	..
Balcd Ser 6	730.60	769.00	-7.10	...
Opportunity Ser 6	166.00	174.70	-2.20	...
Distribution Ser 6	99.60	104.80	...	7.00
UK Equities Ser 6	£10.05	£10.58	-18.20	..
Higher Inc Ser 6	£10.66	£11.22	-13.70	...
North Amer Ser 6	469.60	494.30	-2.30	...
Far East Ser 6	569.20	599.10	-6.90	.
Europe Ser 6	388.50	408.90	-6.10	...
Intnl Ser 6	577.20	607.50	-6.50	...
Property Ser 6	557.20	586.50	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	446.50	470.00	+2.60	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	187.30	197.10	+1.50	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	301.30	317.10	+0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	861.70	907.10	-4.80	...
-do- Initial	560.90	590.50	-3.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	392.50	413.30	+3.00	..
-do- Initial	257.80	271.40	+2.00	...
International Acc	399.40	420.50	-3.80	...
-do- Initial	260.60	274.40	-2.50	...
Managed Acc	530.80	558.80	-2.70	...
-do- Initial	347.60	365.90	-1.80	...
Money Acc	295.80	311.40	+0.20	...
Property Acc	306.70	322.90	+0.30	...
-do- Initial	199.50	210.00	...	...
America Acc	287.90	303.10	-1.70	...
Australia Acc	201.20	211.80	-9.20	...
Financial Acc	341.60	359.60	-2.80	...
500 Accum	446.10	469.60	+2.50	...
Japan Genl Acc	310.90	327.30	-4.70	...
Income Acc	527.00	554.80	-2.70	...
Leisure Acc	241.90	254.70	+0.90	...
Special Sits Acc	238.60	251.20	-1.70	.
Univ Tech Acc	161.00	169.50	+0.30	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	829.80	829.80	-3.71	...
Income Fund	790.64	832.26	-3.99	...
Extra Income	716.93	754.67	-1.79	...
Worldwide Gth	492.41	518.33	-0.60	...
Balanced Fund	684.67	720.71	-3.51	...
Smllr Cos Recov	725.82	764.03	+11.37	...
N Amer & Genrl	364.36	383.54	+3.12	...
Pacific Basin	421.27	443.42	+4.70	...
German Growth	244.00	256.85	-0.85	...
Japan Growth	177.00	186.32	-4.76	...
The UK Gth Fd	214.90	226.22	-1.40	...
Contl Euro Gth	141.64	149.10	-2.17	...
Property Fund	413.18	434.93	+0.28	...
Fixed Interest	316.76	334.44	+3.41	...
Cash Fund	288.08	303.25	+0.25	...
Managed Inv	501.72	528.13	-2.42	...
Nth Amer Recov	240.66	253.33	+5.76	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	507.10	533.79	+1.30	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 888080				
Measured Perf	160.80	170.10	-0.40	...
Performance Plus	160.80	170.10		
With Profits Perf	174.80	184.90	+0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	180.80	191.30	-3.10	...
Euro Opportunity	222.90	235.80	-1.70	...
North Amer Opp	168.10	177.80	-0.40	...
Far East Opp	192.20	203.30	-2.50	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	127.60	134.30	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	178.40	188.70	+0.70	...
Fixed Int	194.20	205.40	+1.90	...
Cash	158.90	168.10	-0.10	...
Overseas	185.30	196.00	...	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	339.10	357.00	-0.70	...
UK Equity	578.10	608.60	-2.60	...
Property	257.60	271.20	...	...
Money Market	256.00	269.50	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	299.00	314.80	+0.20	...
Japan	338.90	356.80	-9.80	...
North America	157.70	166.00	-0.30	...
International	290.40	305.70	+0.10	...
European	289.30	304.60	-2.30	...
Far East	136.70	143.90	-2.30	...
CANADA LIFE				
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth	£271.80	...	...	...
Managed	330.60	348.00	-0.10	...
Property	239.00	251.60	+0.30	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	245.40	258.40	+2.00	...
Equity	368.80	388.30	+0.80	...
Cash	219.40	231.00	+2.00	...
CLife Euro Mgd	384.40	404.70	-7.70	...
CLife Intl Fd	348.90	367.30	-1.80	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.00	176.90	...	...
Managed Fund	613.10	645.40	-3.70	..
Equity Fund	352.80	371.40	-2.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	288.30	303.50	-3.50	...
Ruby	171.70	180.80	-2.50	...
Emerald	148.60	156.50	+0.80	...
Equity	328.60	346.00	-4.40	...
Property	234.40	246.80	+0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	207.30	218.20	+1.60	...
Indexed Secs	174.30	183.50	+1.10	...
Cash	190.40	200.50	+0.20	...
Nth American	232.60	244.90	+0.10	...
Far East	318.80	335.60	-6.30	...
International	238.30	250.90	-5.00	...
Special Sits	330.30	347.70	-0.40	..
Intl Income	293.10	308.60	-2.40	..
American Inc	199.00	209.50	-1.90	.
European	337.80	345.10	-4.30	...
Japanese	133.20	140.30	-5.60	...
SE Asia	358.40	377.30	-9.30	...
With Profits Reg	169.40	178.40	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	169.40	178.40	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	326.20	343.40	-3.80	..
Equity	390.20	410.80	-5.90	...
Property	213.30	224.60	-0.40	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	259.40	273.10	+2.30	...
Index Linked	184.10	193.80	+1.30	...
Cash	256.10	269.60	+0.30	...
Nth American	290.80	306.20	-0.50	..
Far East Acc	304.20	320.30	-8.70	...
International Acc	302.60	318.60	-5.30	...
Special Sits	481.60	507.00	+1.60	...
European Flex	454.10	478.10	-4.20	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Unlts):Key	£220.29	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	£319.90	...	...	...
-do- Cash	206.73	217.61	+0.12	...
-do- Equity	555.42	584.65	-6.64	...
-do- Fxd Int	363.50	382.63	+3.83	...
-do- Managed	398.58	419.56	-2.97	...
-do- Property	289.60	304.84	-0.57	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	209.33	220.36	+0.04	...
-do- Cash Inv	311.35	327.75	+0.28	...
-do- Equity Cap	£14.42	£15.18	-21.46	...
-do- Equity Inv	£21.46	£22.59	-30.38	...
-do- Fixed Cap	398.03	418.98	+6.00	...
-do- Fixed Inv	592.00	623.17	+9.34	...
-do- Index Cap	207.33	218.26	+1.18	...
-do- Index Inv	308.38	324.62	+1.97	...
Mngd Cap	592.00	623.17	+9.92	...
Mngd Inv	856.78	910.88	-0.62	...
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5)	£722.62	...	...	...
Var Ann (5)	£93.94	...	...	...
Prime Managed	409.90	431.50	-0.20	...
Prime UK Equity	500.00	526.40	+1.20	...
Prime Int Equity	304.20	320.30	-2.80	...
Prime Property	254.00	267.40		
Prime Fxd Int	235.50	247.90	+1.70	...
Prime Index-Lnk	176.20	185.50	+1.10	...
Prime Cash	209.70	220.80	+0.10	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	£11.46	£12.06	+13.00	0.0
Equity Fund	*£16.71*	*£17.59*	*+13.70*	...
CROWN FINANCIAL				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	602.30	633.80	-5.80	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	379.20	399.10	+3.50	...
Life Equity Acc	844.60	889.00	-7.40	...
Life Money Acc	305.20	321.30	+0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	801.80	844.00	-4.00	...
Life Intl Acc	500.10	526.40	-9.70	...
Life High Inc Acc	816.10	859.00	-8.40	...
Life Property Acc	248.00	261.00	+0.20	...
Crown Brit Inv A	£13.74	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	745.00	784.20	+4.70	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	178.50	187.90	+0.20	...
Managed Fund	239.80	252.50	-1.10	...
-do- Series 2	157.80	166.20	-0.70	...
Adventurous Fd	195.40	205.70	-2.40	...
-do- Series 2	150.20	158.20	-1.80	...
Equity Mngd Fd	239.40	252.10	-2.20	...
-do- Series 2	159.30	167.70	-1.40	..
UK Pref Fxd Int	144.90	152.60	+1.40	...
UK Equity Fund	166.10	174.90	-0.60	...
Property Fund	118.10	124.40	-0.20	...
Envrnmntl Opps	167.00	175.80	-0.10	...
Euro Fund	190.90	201.00	-1.00	...
North Amer Fd	199.20	209.70	-1.00	...
Oriental Ops	229.40	241.50	-4.40	...
Japanese Fund	117.20	123.40	-3.10	...
Bll & West Life	126.40	133.10	+0.10	...
Bll & West Pen	143.90	151.50	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	264.00	273.60	-0.80	3.35
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	309.60	325.90	-2.40	...
UK Equity	*411.20*	*432.90*	-2.90	...
Stewardship	355.20	373.90	+2.20	...
Overseas Equity	284.70	299.70	-4.10	...
North American	153.20	161.30	-2.50	...
Pacific Basin	164.20	172.90	-2.20	...
European	225.80	237.70	-2.10	...
Property	200.90	211.50	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	236.70	249.20	+1.70	...
Index Linked	173.80	183.00	+1.30	...
Cash	203.80	214.60	+0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	548.90	577.70	+3.00	...
Managed	702.00	738.90	-6.80	...
Deposit	350.80	369.20	+0.20	...
Property	489.50	515.20	+0.50	...
American	432.40	455.10	-6.90	...
Australian	512.20	539.10	-22.60	...
European	543.10	571.60	-8.80	...
Income Acc	766.00	806.30	-9.30	...
-do- Dist	451.80	475.50	-7.40	5.03
International	313.10	329.50	-4.80	...
Japan Smaller	464.60	489.00	-3.00	..
Singapore & Mal	398.20	419.10	+6.60	...
Smaller Cos	403.60	424.80	-3.20	...
Tokyo Fund	661.90	696.70	-15.70	...
UK Equity	588.30	619.20	-5.30	...
CCM Vangd Mg	761.00	801.00	-1.40	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	305.10	321.20	-4.40	...
GT Plan Wwide	471.00	495.80	-6.50	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	*694.80*	*694.80*	-3.70	...
-do- Inv A	694.70	731.40	-3.90	...
UK Equity	414.10	436.00	-2.10	...
Gilt Plus	206.10	217.00	+1.60	...
Managed	309.20	325.60	-1.70	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	211.10	222.10	-3.60	...
Unitised Profit	140.90	148.20	+0.20	...
UK Equity	287.90	302.90	+0.70	...
Fixed Int	197.10	207.30	+2.70	...
Index-Linked	171.30	180.30	+1.00	...
Cash Deposit	176.80	186.00	+0.10	...
Property	191.80	201.80	+0.30	...
International	175.80	184.90	-0.80	...
American	166.90	175.60	+0.10	...
Japan	237.40	249.90	-4.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	243.10	255.90	-4.30	...
European	188.00	197.80	-2.80	...
Pacific Fund	283.40	298.30	-3.00	...
Conv Life	127.40	134.00	-0.50	..
For General Portfolio see Gan				
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	828.00	862.50	...	...
Managed Initial	460.00	484.20	-4.70	...
-do- Acc	662.70	697.60	+6.40	...
Equity Initial	687.40	723.60	-8.50	...
-do- Acc	990.30	£10.42	-11.80	...
Fixed Int Initial	448.10	471.70	+3.50	...
-do- Acc	645.50	679.50	+5.30	...
Intl Initial	451.50	475.20	-6.50	.
-do- Acc	650.40	684.60	-9.00	...
Nth Amer Initial	179.20	188.60	-3.50	...
-do- Acc	234.90	247.30	-4.50	...
Pacific Initial	234.50	246.90	+8.50	...
-do- Acc	304.60	320.60	-11.00	...
Property Initial	181.30	190.90	.	..
-do- Acc	260.90	274.60	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	164.80	173.50	+0.90	...
-do- Acc	216.10	227.50	+1.30	...
Deposit Initial	199.10	209.60	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	286.80	301.90	+0.40	...
Euro Initial	107.00	112.70	-1.80	..
-do- Acc	129.70	136.50	-2.20	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 295, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	25.27	26.60	-0.05	.
Balanced	25.70	27.06	-0.16	...
Opportunity	25.64	26.99	-0.15	...
Deposit	24.02	25.28	+0.02	...
Pension Funds				
Foundation	25.48	26.82	-0.08	..
Balanced	25.88	27.24	-0.24	...
Opportunity	25.72	27.08	-0.14	...
Deposit	24.12	25.39	+0.02	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	170.70	179.60	-0.20	...
-do- Pens	210.30	221.30	-0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity	173.40	182.50	-0.40	...
-do- Pens	200.00	210.50	-0.60	...
International	151.20	159.10	-0.70	...
-do- Pens	164.90	173.50	-0.70	..
Deposit	141.50	148.90	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	168.30	177.10	+0.10	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	361.40	384.50	-1.10	...
North America	352.40	374.90	-1.90	...
Far East Fund	584.10	621.40	-12.40	..
Global Managed	467.40	497.30	-2.60	...
Deposit Fund	232.90	245.20	+0.20	...
Prime Residential	139.30	146.70	...	...
European Fund	264.10	281.00	-4.20	...
Fixed Interest	61.70	65.60	...	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	522.90	553.40	-0.80	...
British Fund	534.70	565.90	-6.10	...
International	549.60	581.60	-4.80	...
Dollar Fund	397.80	421.00	-0.30	...
Capital Fund	488.60	517.10	-4.90	...
Income Fund	706.00	747.10	-5.90	...
Property Series A	467.20	494.40	...	4.50
Property Units	*772.10*	*810.60*	...	...
Financial Fund	598.10	633.00	-9.00	...
Managed Ser A	550.00	582.10	-3.60	...
Managed Units	985.90	£10.37	-6.50	...
High Yield Fund	655.80	694.00	-2.20	...
Money Series A	293.40	310.50	+0.20	...
Money Units	389.40	409.90	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	623.60	659.90	-5.90	...
Fixed Interest	371.20	392.90	+3.20	...
Indexed Secs	192.50	203.80	+1.00	...
European Fund	737.40	780.40	-12.10	...
Natural Res	286.30	303.00	-4.40	...
Far East Fund	655.00	693.20	-5.80	...
Smaller Cos	505.90	535.40	+1.80	...
Special Sits	457.90	484.60	+0.40	...
Man Currency	268.50	284.20	-0.50	...
Japanese Tech	271.70	287.60	-4.40	...
US Smaller Cos	261.80	277.10	+1.90	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 48281				
Global Managed	578.90	609.40	-1.90	...
Global Property	299.90	315.70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	523.60	551.20	+4.90	...
Global Equity	621.40	654.10	-3.20	...
Global Cash	217.40	228.80	+0.20	..
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	491.60	517.40	+1.40	...
Managed	417.70	439.60	-4.40	...
American	423.10	445.30	-5.20	...
UK Equity Fd	452.20	475.90	-5.30	...
Japan	*186.40*	*196.20*	-4.20	...
Index-Lkd	190.90	200.90	+1.10	...
High Yield	863.90	909.30	-4.70	...
Money	409.90	431.40	+0.30	...
International	391.40	412.00	-5.90	...
Henderson Active	209.70	220.70	-1.10	...
Perpetual Active	331.30	348.70	-0.60	...
Growth Acc	654.50	688.90	-6.00	..
Gilt Edged	441.60	464.80	+3.00	...
European	160.10	168.50	-1.50	...
Far East	208.00	218.90	-4.40	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Intr	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	189.00	199.00	+0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	144.90	152.50	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	181.70	191.30	+0.40	...
Cash Initial	167.90	176.80	+0.10	
-do- Acc	292.80	308.30	+0.40	...
Equity Initial	659.90	694.70	-7.00	...
-do- Acc	£11.50	£12.10	-12.20	...
Fixed Initial	346.70	365.00	+3.00	...
-do- Acc	604.30	636.20	+5.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	137.10	144.40	+0.90	...
-do- Acc	204.00	214.80	+1.40	...
Intl Initial	315.70	332.40	-5.00	.
-do- Acc	541.70	570.30	-8.70	...
Managed Initial	472.30	497.20	-4.80	...
-do- Acc	823.30	866.70	-8.30	...
Property Initial	217.70	229.20	+0.40	...
-do- Acc	379.60	399.60	+0.80	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units	£131.50	..	+2.75	..
Property Units	£126.99	...	-0.27	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£67.14	£70.68	-0.34	...
2nd Equity Acc	641.20	675.00	-7.80	...
2nd High Inc Ac	613.30	645.60	-8.90	...
2nd Property Acc	247.60	260.70	...	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	183.80	193.50	+0.30	..
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	470.80	495.50	-2.50	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	232.90	245.20	-1.10	...
2nd Deposit Acc	289.20	304.40	+0.10	...
2nd Gilt Acc	308.40	324.60	+2.60	...
2nd Amer Acc	708.30	745.60	+12.70	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	283.70	298.60	+1.80	...
2nd Index Acc	214.90	226.20	+1.30	...
2nd Far East Acc	439.00	462.10	-7.20	..
2nd Global Acc	172.00	181.10	..	..
2nd Euro Acc	164.90	173.50	-2.40	...
2nd Japan Acc	187.90	197.80	-2.60	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	171.30	180.30	+0.20	...
2nd Cap Gilt Acc	130.30	137.20	-0.90	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity	£914.30	..	-29.60	...
Fixed Interest	£431.40	...	+1.60	...
Property	£414.00	...	-16.70	...
Deposit	£296.50	...	+0.10	...
Mixed	£601.90	...	-18.10	...
Indexed Stock	£220.00	...	-0.50	...
International	£293.00	..	-7.50	..
Equity A	£212.10	.	-6.90	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fixed Int A	£191.40	...	+0.80	...
Property A	£182.00	...	-7.30	...
Deposit A	£174.30	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A	£197.80	...	-5.90	...
Index Stock A	£172.30	...	-0.30	...
International A	£183.10	...	-4.60	...
Equity P	£763.70	...	-23.70	...
Fixed Int P	£568.30	...	+1.70	...
Property P	£325.40	...	-14.90	...
Deposit P	£351.00	...	+1.10	..
Mixed P	£554.10	...	-19.80	...
Index Stock P	£252.00	...	-0.70	...
International P	£342.70	...	-9.70	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap	£579.90	...	+4.70	...
-do- Acc	£990.60	...	+8.90	...
Property Cap	£148.30	...	...	...
-do- Acc	£243.40	...	+0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap	£194.90	...	+1.50	...
-do- Acc	£321.80	...	+2.70	...
Equity Cap	£316.00	...	-2.10	...
-do- Acc	£529.00	...	-3.00	...
Internatl Cap	£228.00	...	-1.90	...
-do- Acc	£377.80	...	-2.80	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	£164.30	...	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	£268.10	...	+0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap	*£340.10*	...	*-1.70*	...
-do- Acc	£567.60	...	-2.40	...
Moneymaker Fd	£439.00	...	-1.80	...
Capital Growth	£17.19	...	-9.60	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	421.60	442.80	-5.30	...
Amer Rec Bond	505.10	530.50	-3.50	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	242.30	254.50	-0.30	...
Australasia Bd	215.40	226.20	-10.20	...
Commodity Bond	305.90	321.30	-8.90	...
Deposit Bond Acc	367.70	386.20	+0.40	...
Equity Bond Acc	£15.65	£16.43	+2.70	...
European Bd Acc	390.40	410.00	-1.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	753.40	791.20	-5.70	...
Far East Bd Acc	304.10	319.40	-8.70	...
Gilt Bond Acc	449.30	471.90	+4.00	...
Gold Bond Acc	147.60	155.10	-2.10	...
High Yield Bond	340.90	358.00	-2.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	215.30	226.40	+1.30	...
International Bd	761.80	800.00	-10.90	...
Japan Bond Acc	243.50	255.80	-7.70	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	229.40	240.90	-12.20	...
Managed Bonds	882.70	926.90	-7.60	...
Prop Bond Acc	346.60	364.00	+1.00	...
Rec Bond Acc	773.60	812.40	-6.50	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	225.30	237.20	-1.60	...
UK Equity Acc	322.90	339.90	-2.00	...
Special Sits	92.30	97.20	-0.40	...
Special Sits Acc	132.40	139.40	-0.40	...
North American	179.30	188.80	-2.10	...
N American Acc	257.00	270.60	-2.80	...
Pacific Basin	359.20	378.20	-6.70	...
Pacific Basin Acc	515.00	542.20	-9.10	...
Fixed Interest	282.80	297.70	+2.10	...
Fixed Interest Acc	405.80	427.20	+3.30	...
Property	178.60	188.00	...	...
Property Acc	256.30	269.80	+0.20	...
Deposit	152.60	160.70	+0.10	...
Deposit Acc	219.00	230.60	+0.10	...
Managed	259.00	272.70	-2.00	...
Managed Acc	342.30	360.30	-2.40	...
MANULIFE GROUP				
St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts 01438 356101				
Managed Fund	721.30	759.20	-3.10	...
Property Fund	549.90	578.80	+0.80	...
Equity Fund	924.80	973.50	-4.10	...
Gilt Edged Fd	628.00	661.10	+5.90	...
Deposit Fund	336.20	353.90	+0.30	...
Investment Fd	396.80	416.70	-2.00	...
International	544.40	573.00	-7.20	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	445.30	468.70	+0.30	...
UK Equity	362.70	381.70	-1.10	...
Gilt Edged	581.20	611.70	+3.50	...
Interest Fund	393.00	413.60	+0.20	...
UK Fund	497.10	523.20	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	605.00	636.80	-0.50	...
Intl Managed	575.30	605.50	-2.20	...
North American	221.60	233.20	-3.10	...
Far East	456.80	480.80	-5.90	...
Intl Currency	264.00	277.80	-0.50	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HR 0171 623 4200				
Managed	492.10	517.90	-4.70	...
UK Equity	617.70	650.20	-6.90	...
Overseas Equity	480.40	505.60	-8.30	...
Americas	417.40	439.30	-1.70	...
Far East	550.80	579.70	-13.40	...
Property	222.90	234.60	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	394.50	415.20	+3.20	...
Indexed Gilt	240.50	253.10	+1.60	...
Deposit	220.30	231.80	+0.10	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 148, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	£14.52	£15.28	-13.40	...
Eqty Fund	£31.74	£33.42	-31.80	...
Property Fd	579.40	609.90	+0.20	..
Fixed Int Fd	601.40	633.10	+2.90	...
Deposit Fund	355.50	374.20	+0.40	...
Intl Fund	246.60	259.60	-2.90	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	288.10	304.00	-10.00	...
Fxd Interest Acc	244.70	258.20	+1.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International Acc	251.00	264.50	-2.00	...
Managed Acc	221.40	233.60	-1.30	...
Property Acc	224.00	236.30	-0.10	...
Money Acc	157.80	166.50	+0.40	...
Spec Mkt Acc	219.10	231.20	-3.00	..
Japan Equity Acc	117.90	124.40	-3.60	...
N Amer Acc	161.10	170.00	+0.50	...
Pacific Acc	155.40	164.00	-0.20	...
European Acc	187.90	198.30	-1.00	..
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	157.70	166.10	-0.80	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	332.30	349.70	-1.70	...
Inv Equity	£12.22	£12.87	-9.00	...
Inv Managed	863.70	909.20	-5.10	...
Ret Managed	982.30	£10.34	-5.00	...
For Providence Capitol see Old Mutual				
PROVIDENT MUTUAL				
Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732800				
Managed Ord	485.80	511.40	-4.60	...
Managed Initial	322.80	339.80	-3.30	...
Equity Ord	737.00	775.80	-8.30	...
Equity Init	489.70	515.50	-5.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	207.70	218.60	+1.40	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	*144.10*	*151.70*	*+0.90*	...
Oseas Equity Ord	382.80	402.90	-5.80	...
Oseas Equity Init	254.40	267.80	-4.00	...
Property Ord	283.50	298.40	+0.30	...
Property Init	188.40	198.30	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	286.40	301.50	+2.70	...
Fixed Int Init	190.30	200.30	+1.60	...
Deposit Ord	210.00	221.10	+0.30	...
Deposit Initial	139.50	146.80	..	...
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	351.50	366.20	-4.00	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	816.10	859.10	-6.40	...
Equity Fund	£15.33	£16.14	-15.50	...
Intl Fund	638.80	672.50	-8.30	...
Fixed Interest	576.40	606.80	+5.10	...
Property Fund	485.30	510.90	...	...
Cash Fund	370.50	390.00	+0.20	...
Pacific Basin	365.00	384.30	-8.60	...
N American Fd	268.00	282.20	-3.10	...
Euro Fund	283.10	298.10	-4.40	...
Balanced Fund	159.60	168.00	-1.40	...
Strategic Fund	168.10	177.00	-2.00	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45)	1768.90	...	...	...
-do- Acc	447.40	471.00	...	...
Op Prop	*507.60*	*534.30*	*-0.10*	...
Op Equity	992.40	£10.44	-17.00	...
Op High Yield	603.40	635.10	+5.70	...
Op Managed	826.60	870.10	+2.00	...
Op Deposit	399.70	420.70	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	296.40	312.00	-2.60	...
Japan Smlr	231.20	243.40	-10.30	...
Managed Gth	255.10	268.60	-8.10	...
Gilt	80.70	85.00	+0.50	...
British	351.90	370.40	-19.90	...
Global Bond	117.30	123.50	+1.90	...
Global (35.34)	170.40	179.40	+6.30	...
Gold Share	82.70	87.10	-0.70	...
High Income	294.90	310.50	+2.30	...
Income	407.50	429.00	-25.40	...
Japan	412.10	433.80	-7.30	...
UK Smlr Cos	353.10	371.70	-1.80	...
Mngd Growth	459.20	483.40	-1.80	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	992.50	£10.50	+0.70	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	391.70	412.30	-1.90	...
Equity Fund	554.60	583.70	-1.70	...
Property Fund	338.00	355.70	+0.20	...
International	491.40	517.20	-4.90	...
Pacific Basin	262.20	275.90	-5.10	...
United States	269.30	283.40	-3.00	...
Gilt Fund	374.90	394.60	+3.50	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	*778.60*	*824.00*	*-0.10*	*2.61*
Deposit Fund (2)	378.90	401.00	+0.40	6.80
Gilt Fund	527.80	558.60	+4.30	8.12
Global Equity Fd	237.00	250.80	-1.80	...
Property Fund (46)	114.20	120.90	+1.10	6.73
AG Bond Fund	149.40	158.10	-0.20	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	606.50	638.50	-2.40	...
Fixed Interest	378.20	398.20	+1.80	...
Index-Linked	201.40	212.10	...	...
International	466.60	491.20	-6.60	...
Property	303.80	319.80	+0.30	...
Cash	234.00	246.40	+0.10	...
Managed	478.40	503.60	-3.10	...
Cap Gteed Bd	*117.10*	*123.30*	*-0.70*	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	184.41	194.12	+0.16	...
Index-Linked	168.60	177.50	+1.10	...
Fixed Interest	178.50	187.90	+1.70	...
Mixed	260.90	274.60	-0.90	...
UK Equity	246.40	259.40	-2.40	...
International	262.30	276.10	-1.40	..
American	265.30	279.30	-4.60	...
Japan	229.60	241.70	-2.70	...
European	271.70	286.00	+2.40	...
Pacific	349.10	367.40	-3.20	...
Technology	391.30	411.70	+2.60	...
Currncy/Currncy	241.00	253.70	+2.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	226.50	238.50	+0.20	...
UK Equity	361.30	380.30	-3.70	...
American	257.70	271.40	-3.00	...
Pacific	345.20	363.40	-7.30	...
European	493.60	519.70	-7.00	...
International	313.90	330.40	-4.40	...
Fixed Interest	240.90	253.70	+2.10	...
Index Linked	203.90	214.70	+1.00	...
Deposit	197.80	208.30	+0.20	...
Managed	291.20	306.60	-2.90	...
Worldwide	121.60	128.10	-1.80	...
Pen Worldwide	129.20	136.10	-2.60	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	£17.01	£17.53	+49.70	...
Safety Fund	239.20	251.80	+0.20	...
Growth Fund	332.10	344.40	-2.60	...
Opportunity Fd	230.80	243.00	-1.80	...
Cash Fund	177.30	186.70	+0.20	...
European Fund	350.30	368.80	-5.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	205.30	216.20	+1.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	188.20	198.20	+0.90	...
International Fd	283.00	297.90	-4.60	...
North American	233.40	245.70	-3.90	...
Property Fund	*130.00*	*136.90*	*-0.10*	...
UK Equity	247.10	260.20	-3.00	...
UK Smaller	241.50	254.30	+0.80	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	273.00	287.50	-0.30	...
Equity	287.60	302.80	-0.20	...
International	276.60	291.20	-0.50	...
Property	236.00	248.50	...	...
Fixed Interest	223.30	235.10	+1.20	...
Index Linked	186.90	196.80	+1.30	...
Cash	189.60	199.70	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	816.80	869.00	-0.70	...
Cash Fund	344.90	363.50	+0.30	...
Property Fund	299.10	315.20	+0.90	...
Equity Fund	926.00	985.20	-3.00	...
Fxd Interest Fund	471.70	497.10	+2.80	..
International	399.90	425.50	-1.50	...
High Income	722.20	768.30	-0.90	...
Far East	566.60	602.80	-5.80	...
North American	566.80	603.00	-1.90	...
Special Sits	669.10	711.90	+2.10	...
Technology	683.00	726.70	+14.80	...
Extra Income Fd	390.50	415.50	-1.40	...
Gilt Fund	487.50	518.70	+3.60	...
European	155.20	165.20	-1.20	...
Adventurous Mg	226.30	238.30	-0.90	...
Secure Mgd	151.10	159.30	-0.40	...
Equity Inc Dist	118.50	124.90	-0.10	4.45
North American	111.00	117.00	-0.30	5.13
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU				
0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	960.30	960.30	-7.10	..
Inv Pol 2	871.70	917.60	-6.90	...
Inv Pol 3	831.20	875.00	-6.60	...
Inv Cash	320.40	337.40	+0.20	...
Mixed Fund	454.20	478.30	-2.30	...
Equity Fund	540.30	568.80	-6.50	...
Property Fund	247.60	260.70	-1.00	...
International Fd	485.60	511.20	+0.50	...
Fixed Interest Fd	384.90	405.20	+3.40	...
Indexed Stock Fd	206.20	217.20	+1.20	...
Cash Fund	231.90	244.20	+0.10	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	389.70	*410.20*	*-0.30*	...
Equity Acc	464.50	488.90	+0.60	...
International Acc	358.90	377.70	-2.60	...
Property	231.40	243.50	+0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	272.70	287.10	+0.10	...
Equity	£10.34	£10.78	-11.50	...
European	176.70	186.10	-3.30	...
Far East	172.50	181.60	-2.80	...
Fixed Interest	409.80	431.40	+3.70	...
Index Linked	218.90	230.50	+1.40	...
International	630.80	664.00	-10.30	...
Managed	718.50	756.40	-8.30	...
Nth American	*150.40*	*158.40*	*-1.70*	...
Property	367.60	387.00	+0.40	...
Pensions				
Cash	426.70	449.20	+0.40	...
Equity	£14.97	£15.76	-18.60	...
European	213.50	224.80	-4.60	...
Far East	138.70	146.10	-2.80	...
Fixed Interest	568.50	598.50	+4.60	...
Index Linked	304.80	320.90	+1.90	...
International	892.90	939.90	-16.80	...
Managed	£10.22	£10.76	-13.00	...
Nth American	187.90	197.80	-2.20	...
Property	504.00	530.60	+0.70	...
Stock Exchange	230.30	242.50	-3.10	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex				
01403 232323				
Managed Fund	669.40	704.70	-6.70	...
Equity Fund	881.30	927.70	-8.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	421.80	444.00	+3.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	330.30	347.70	+2.40	...
Property Fund	525.30	553.00	+0.50	...
International Fd	639.70	673.40	-9.40	..
N American Fd	243.80	256.70	-1.60	...
Far East Fund	230.20	242.40	-4.80	...
Deposit Fund	303.10	319.10	+0.30	...
International Bd	£180.22	...	+2.29	...
Worldwide Bond	162.50	171.10	+0.10	...
European	170.40	179.40	-1.80	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	674.20	709.80	+4.10	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	454.70	484.60	...	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£607.70	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc	£566.10	...	+0.60	...
Agricultural Fd	£836.20	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	£803.10	...	+0.50	...
Abbey Nat Fd	£451.50	...	+0.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc	£476.60	...	+0.40	...
Investment Fd	£356.70	...	-3.30	...
Investment (A)	£342.10	...	-3.30	...
Equity	£12.85	..	-12.00	...
Equity Acc	£12.29	..	-11.60	...
Money Fund	£484.30	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc	£462.50	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd	£391.30	...	-4.30	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	£395.40	...	+3.10	...
-do- Acc	£395.40	...	+3.10	...
Retire Annuity	£12.50	...	...	...
Immed Annuity	£298.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	£230.40	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Account	£15.25	...	+3.00	...
Managed Acc	860.00	...	+9.80	...
Equity Account	£12.32	...	+17.00	...
Mngd Fund Acc	394.90	415.60	+4.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	537.50	565.80	+7.70	...
Prop Fund Acc	264.50	278.50	+0.10	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	*312.80*	*329.30*	+2.30	...
Money Fund Acc	225.10	237.00	+0.20	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	210.30	221.40	+3.40	...
Pers Pens Acct	£19.68	...	+21.60	...
Pens Mngd Acct	915.20	963.30	+10.50	...
Pens Guarantee	261.20	275.00	+0.50	...
Pens Equity	352.70	371.20	+5.30	...
Pens Property	308.50	324.80	+0.40	...
Pens Fixed Int	293.20	308.70	+2.60	...
Pens Intl	252.90	266.30	+1.90	...
Pens Money	242.10	254.80	+0.20	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	202.30	213.00	+3.20	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	916.80	965.10	-3.40	...
Property Acc	312.80	329.30	-0.20	...
Equity Acc	£14.91	£15.70	-9.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	407.90	429.40	+3.30	...
Cash Acc	314.80	331.40	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	384.90	405.20	+0.10	...
Japan Acc	300.40	316.30	-7.70	...
Pacific Acc	376.10	395.90	+15.70	...
Far Eastern Acc	864.20	909.70	-19.40	.
International Acc	610.80	643.00	+0.30	...
Distribution Fund	273.40	287.80	-7.40	6.25
European	198.90	209.40	-3.80	..
Deffrd Dist	172.20	181.30	-0.30	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	286.50	301.60	-4.70	...
Property Fund	231.70	244.00	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	*229.10*	*241.30*	*+1.50*	...
Money Fund	203.70	214.50	+0.10	...
Equity Fund	*369.40*	*388.90*	-7.40	...
TARGET LIFE				
The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 01296 394000				
Deposit	253.30	266.80	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	48.30	51.70	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	332.40	350.00	+2.50	...
Gold	78.80	83.10	+0.90	...
Managed	618.80	651.40	-5.40	...
Mngd Growth	197.20	207.70	-0.20	...
Mngd Opp	208.10	219.10	+0.40	...
Property	326.30	343.40	...	...
Residential Prop	103.20	108.80	+0.10	...
TSB American	200.80	211.50	-1.00	...
TSB Brit Gwth	873.00	919.00	-3.40	...
TSB European	266.90	*281.10*	-5.30	...
TSB Income	389.40	410.00	-3.10	...
TSB Intl	417.60	439.70	-6.40	...
TSB Intl Inc	290.80	306.20	-1.70	...
TSB Pacific	405.20	426.70	-7.10	...
TSB Prem Inc	256.90	268.40	+1.70	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	710.50	748.70	-1.40	...
Money Fund	322.60	339.60	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	615.00	648.10	...	...
Fixed Interest	283.70	298.90	...	...
Property Fund	360.40	379.40	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	592.60	624.40	+8.50	...
Income	*771.70*	*813.30*	+5.10	...
International Gth	637.20	671.40	+5.40	...
Capital Fund	623.70	657.20	+6.40	...
Recovery Fund	645.90	680.60	+3.30	...
Japan & General	253.10	266.70	-5.20	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.34	19.31	...	...
Bear	19.96	21.01	+0.04	...
Owl	21.06	22.17	...	...
Bull	18.49	19.46	+0.06	...
Stag	19.10	20.11	-0.13	...
Gilt Edged	19.10	20.11	+0.08	...
Deposit	16.03	16.87	...	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.02	26.34	...	...
Bear	27.75	29.21	-0.06	...
Owl	28.54	30.04	...	...
Bull	23.65	24.89	+0.08	...
Stag	23.38	24.61	+0.16	...
Gilt Edged	24.20	25.47	+0.09	...
Deposit	20.81	21.90	...	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	600.35	...	+2.03	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	347.40	365.68	+0.30	...
N Amer Equity	288.11	303.27	+3.14	...
Far East Equity	364.08	383.24	-0.14	...
Fixed	301.37	317.23	+1.21	...
Cash Deposit	208.07	219.02	...	...
Property	153.51	161.59	...	...
Special Opp	349.74	368.15	+1.58	...
Managed	317.18	333.87	+1.12	...
Index-Linked Fd	197.38	207.77	+1.17	...

Taking from the elderly to provide tax cuts

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, Liz Dolan suggests ("When the State becomes a burden on the elderly", May 13) that Mr Major should have added words to his statement that he wants wealth to cascade down the generations, and "people should build up something of their own for their own".

My proposal for these words is: "So that the Government can take it away and give it to those who haven't bothered". It has become apparent that our National Insurance has never been insurance for lifetime care. On the contrary, this, together with savings and personal pension schemes, has become the repository for funds which the Government can acquire to reduce taxes.

Is it not enough that my wife and family have to cope with the medical and psychological effects of me having Parkinson's disease? We all now have to consider devious ways to transfer our house and hard-earned savings out of reach of the Social Security Department. Lawyers are prepared, at a price, to arrange financial manipulations to frustrate the acquisition of the nest egg that was intended to add some comfort to our old age.

With any luck we shall ensure there is no money within the reach of this voracious Government who must not be allowed to blame underfunded local authorities.

For what it's worth, Mr Major and Mr Clarke, please note that the only way to recover my vote at the next election will be to raise taxes to fund the rightful care of the elderly. However, I would also like to know what Mr Blair intends to do on the subject.

Yours faithfully
ALAN SMITH,
Rippleway,
Paddock Close,
Napton,
Warwickshire.

Caring for old people

From Mr John Craven

Sir, Your article ("When the State becomes a burden on the elderly," May 13) on long-term care for the elderly seemed to imply that, if the State were to pay for this care, more wealth could "cascade down the generations" keeping John Major, and no doubt his voters, happy.

It seems elementary that, if the State pays for this care, the general taxpayer will pay more and the amount of wealth cascading down is much the same as if the care is provided privately.

The only way for a selfish generation to gain at the expense of its parents is not to care for them at all. The danger of that strategy is that our children might try it too.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CRAVEN,
Old Lynch Cottage,
Brook Street,
Eastry,
Sandwich,
Kent.

Release me from the ever increasing temptation to win
GED

No change to Ernie's odds

From Mr Alan McGill

Mr K. W. Mieszkis (Letters, May 6) is mistaken in thinking that the abolition of the weekly Premium Bond prize draws meant fewer prizes. There were only three prizes in each weekly draw. We increased the number of prizes of £10,000 and above in the monthly draws so that there would be no fewer overall. So bond holders did not have their chance of winning prizes reduced, as Mr Mieszkis suggests. The odds remained exactly the same, but we added extra money to the prize fund so that we could offer a £1 million jackpot prize. In the June draw there will be over 330,000 prizes to a value of nearly £22 million and Mr Mieszkis's chance of winning will be no different from when we had weekly as well as monthly draws. The different is that now he has a chance each month of becoming a millionaire.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN McGILL,
Controller,
National Savings,
Blackpool, Lancashire.

Water meter levy

From Mr F. Paul Taylor

Sir, The Director-General of Water Services castigates the water supply companies for charging metered households much more for their supply than unmetered ones.

Meters are expensive to purchase and fit; they corrode and scale up and have to be replaced regularly; they have to be read and the accounts calculated. All this costs at least £50 a year. If this cost is not borne by the metered consumer, it has to be met by the unmetered consumer, which is manifestly unfair. The fairest way is to levy a standing charge: the cost does not change with the volume used.

Yours faithfully,
F. PAUL TAYLOR,
7, Kingsway,
Frodsham, Cheshire.

Pity the investors

From K.C. Everitt

Sir, I read with interest your article about interest rates ("A question of interest rate rises," May 13). One aspect of interest rate changes has often puzzled me: I understand there are about seven investors for every borrower in building societies, and when interest rates rise there is quite a hoo-ha in the press about borrowers having to pay more. However, when rates drop there is little or no comment about or sympathy for the investors who receive less income from their investments, without whom there would be no borrowers.

Yours faithfully,
K.C. EVERITT,
29, Grand Avenue,
Pakefield,
Lowestoft,
Suffolk.

Letters to the Weekend Money section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5802.

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in April 1995

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.804	0.716	0.634	0.548	0.490	0.442
February	-	0.796	0.709	0.621	0.542	0.484	0.437
March	0.876	0.793	0.703	0.606	0.540	0.481	0.431
April	0.839	0.768	0.681	0.572	0.526	0.464	0.408
May	0.825	0.760	0.675	0.565	0.523	0.462	0.403
June	0.820	0.756	0.670	0.562	0.524	0.462	0.398
July	0.820	0.747	0.672	0.565	0.528	0.464	0.396
August	0.819	0.739	0.657	0.560	0.523	0.459	0.381
September	0.820	0.731	0.653	0.561	0.516	0.455	0.375
October	0.811	0.725	0.643	0.559	0.513	0.448	0.361
November	0.803	0.719	0.638	0.553	0.501	0.441	0.355
December	0.806	0.715	0.640	0.551	0.496	0.442	0.351
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	0.342	0.247	0.144	0.099	0.080	0.054	0.021
February	0.333	0.240	0.138	0.093	0.073	0.049	0.014
March	0.327	0.227	0.134	0.090	0.070	0.046	0.010
April	0.304	0.191	0.119	0.073	0.060	0.033	—
May	0.296	0.181	0.116	0.070	0.056	0.030	—
June	0.291	0.176	0.111	0.070	0.057	0.030	—
July	0.290	0.175	0.114	0.073	0.059	0.035	—
August	0.287	0.163	0.111	0.073	0.054	0.030	—
September	0.278	0.152	0.107	0.069	0.050	0.028	—
October	0.268	0.144	0.103	0.065	0.051	0.026	—
November	0.257	0.146	0.099	0.067	0.052	0.025	—
December	0.254	0.147	0.098	0.070	0.050	0.021	—

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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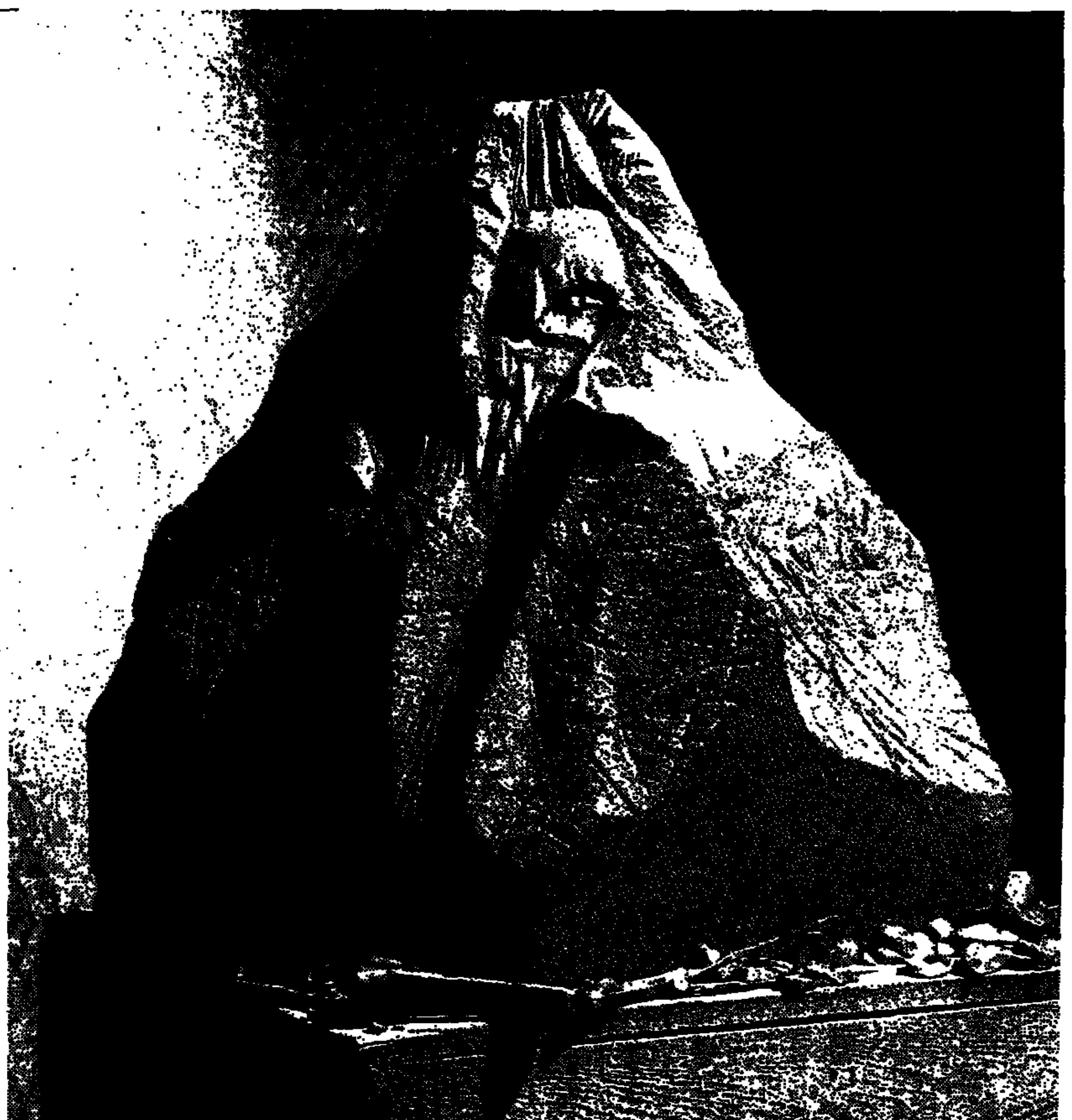

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Positions are to 1st May 1995 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Micropal). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up.

US selling prompts further losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
492	413	Abbey Nat	473	- 4	4.7	9.6
298	250	Allied Irish	280	- 1	4.8	8.4
247	198	Aus New Z	235	- 6	4.8	8.8
3300	2531¼	Bank Americat	3187¾	- 75	..	..
230	191½	Bank Scotlandt	214½	- 2½	3.4	9.5
671	557½	Barclays	650	- 6	4.0	7.0
350	288	Bk of Ireland	343	- 1	4.8	..
500	418	Cater Allen	490	..	7.1	10.3
3287½	2450	Citicorp	3212½	- 37½	...	...
271	219	Close Bros	271	+ 1	3.6	12.3
£158¾	£129¾	Commerzbk	£145¾	- 140¼	3.6	...
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1281¼	+ 3¼	0.5	..
£319⅞	£285	Deutsche Bk	£293¾	- 215½	2.5	..
881¼	612½	Espirito Santo	875	- 6¼	9.5	..
1611	1192¼	Fuji Bank Y	1442¼	- 26	0.4	..
490	395	Gerrard Nat	455	..	6.6	13.1
253	195	Hambros	206	- 2	9.1	12.6
813	589	HSBCt	788½	- 15	4.3	11.3
801	578	HSBC HKt	778	- 12	4.3	11.1
295	228	Irish Permt	294	- 1	2.6	6.8
408	363	Joseph (L)	363	...	6.1	10.6
105	85	King Shaxson	103	- 1	10.9	10.2
687	529	Kleinwort Ben	681	+ 13	3.9	12.2
683	530	Lloyds	665	- 9	4.8	11.2
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	556	- 18	8.5	9.1
557	454	Nat West	541	- 4	5.0	9.1
2425	2150	Ottoman Bank	2425	+ 50	6.4	3.5
67	51	Rea Brost	51	..	2.5	18.7
433	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	398	- 3	4.6	9.5
1115	906¾	Schrodersₜ	1113	+ 3	1.5	15.9
976¾	823¾	Schroder. N/V	930	+ 2	1.8	13.2
92	81	Singer & Friedr	91	..	4.8	..
336	246	Stand Chartt	331	- 1	3.0	10.2
258	217	TSB	247	- 3	4.6	10.5
105	70	Union	104	..	3.6	
883	655	Warburg SG	760	- 7	3.7	..
£713	9043¾	Wells Fargot	£110⅝	- 125	2.6	..
257½	211	Westpac	232¾	- 4¾	2.3	..
235	200	Wintrust	205	...	6.5	13.7

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
172	143	Accol Hldgs	159			
574	497	Bass	554	- 5	4.8	13.7
277	239	Boddington	274	- 2	4.0	14.1
177	152	Burtonwd Brw	153	..	4.2	12.8
170	137	Eldridge P A	162	- 1	3.2	19.7
61	51	Fosters Brewing	59	- 2	4.6	15.4
370	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	368	..	2.7	15.2
483	402	Greenalls Grp	464	- 6	3.7	13.3
532	489	Greene King	522	- 1	3.1	14.2
267	240	Hardy Hansn	254	..	4.6	12.4

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
111	91	ABI Leis	110	- 1	4.6	12.6
595	535	Adam & Harvey	543	..	3.6	6.8
21	18	Alexanders	20	...	6.2	9.6
113	88	Appleyard	108	.	6.7	..
4¾	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3¾		1.7	28.8
598	518	BSS Group	588	+ 1	3.9	20.7
24½	19	Bearing Power	19½	..	6.4	9.6
28	23	Bogod 'A'	25	.	3.5	10.5
400	345	Brammer	398	+ 1	4.2	..
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	21	...	1.2	..
96	85	Brit Fittingst	85	...	4.4	..
48	28	Brown & Tawse	43	+ 1	..	..
39	33	Burndene	37	..	6.5	..
270	215	Cafyns	246	...	5.9	40.2
88	66	Central Mtr	75	..	4.6	49.9
47	35	Cook (DC)	45	+ 1	3.2	13.8
275	220	Cowie	275	+ 2	4.1	11.8
143	125	Dag Motorst	140	..	6.2	12.3
598	558	Dennons B	558	.	1.5	13.8
485	408	Diploma	485	+ 1	3.6	15.8
569	472	Electrocomponts	569		2.3	23.3
182	153	Electron House	175	..	2.5	14.7
282	234	Ellis & Everard	275	- 5	3.6	18.2
111	87	European Mtr	105	+ 1	5.4	11.4
403	364	Evans Halshawt	403	+ 6	4.7	11.9
613	512	Farnell Elect	611	- 2	1.8	..
60	48	Fife Indmar	48	...	7.8	..
24½	15	Gardner	22½	..	4.4	10.4
29½	16	Glencheaton	29½		..	32.5
73	67	Gowringst	66	...	4.3	12.5
73	62	Haldn Hldgst	68	..	1.8	13.0
172	148	Harris (Philip)	165	..	5.2	14.5
421	258	Henlys	420	..	2.6	19.5
99	81	Holders Tech	98	...	7.7	29.4
110	88	ISA Intlt	90	...	2.6	11.0
430	274	Inchcapet	319	- 4	5.9	12.1
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	65			14.8
187	142	Kwik-Fit	157	+ ½	3.5	15.5
339	277	Lex Service	334	...	5.2	17.8
195	164	Lookers	172	.	5.5	9.5
18	14	Malaya Grpt	15	..	3.3	35.7
8¾	5	Middlesex	6¼	- ¼	1.0	..
435	330	Norbain	339	...	0.8	15.1
133	78	Northamber	130	..	1.2	56.2
155	147	PCTt	147		6.5	..
265	225	Pendragon	263	- 3	3.8	15.2
161	123	Perry Grp	147	..	6.4	..
136	126	Quicks Groupt	135	...	5.1	..
171	160	REAt	163	- 1	3.1	10.4
3¾	2¾	Reece	3			
6½	2½	Ross Gp	6	..	4.2	..
51½	37½	SEP Indl	48½	..	2.7	16.2
54	38	TLS Rangert	53	+ 1	3.5	14.8
254	226	Time Products	254	+ 1	4.5	..
328	151	Vardy (Reg)	327	- 1	2.9	16.9
270	240	Wholesale Ftgs	270		5.4	24.1

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
16	11½	Locker (T) A	15½	.	3.2	..
35	29	ML Hldgs	35	...	3.0	12.2
26	19	MS Intl	21	.	8.9	12.7
161	137	Mang Bronze	140	...	4.0	11.9
443	378	McKechnie	429	- 5	4.4	21.6
65	61	Meggitt	63	.	5.9	19.9
118	101	Metalrt	117	.	4.3	17.5
131	130	Metsect	130	.	2.9	27.5
637	487	Molinst	637	..	3.3	11.3
346	293	Morgan Crucl	342	+ 2	4.8	16.8

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
197¼	172	Bankerst	195	- 1	2.5	...
44¾	32	Baring Em Eu	43¼	- ¼	0.3	...
329	300	Baring Tribne	327	- 1	2.6	..
91	84¼	Br Assets	89	- ½	6.2	...
91½	83	Br Empire Sect	90½	- ½	1.3	...
33	25	Br Empire Wts	32		..	..
221	194	Br Inv	218½	- ½	2.8	
101	74¾	Brazilian	88	- ½	0.4	..
240	211	Brunner	238	- 1	2.8	..
132½	120½	BZW Conv	128½	- 1½	7.7	...

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
61	54	Murray Euro	58½	- 1½	0.7	..
17½	10	Murray Eu Wts	12½	- ½	..	...
343	308	Murray Income	337	- 3	4.5	..
342	296	Murray Intl	338	- 4	4.7	...
170	162½	Murray S/C DP	169½	...	...	...
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	150	..	...	...
81	73¼	Murray S/C Inc	75	.	17.7	..
3150	2900	Murray S/C Ult	3025	.	4.4	.
460	376	Murray Smaller	437	- 3	1.2	..
361	308	Murray Ventt	380	...	4.6	...

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
253	174	Blenheim Gpt	227	- 1	5.7	14.0
233	196	Border TV	224	.	2.4	19.6
388	350	Bristol	352		4.4	35.8
290	242	B Sky B	274	- 3	..	51.6
150	126	CIA Gp	149	. .	1.6	22.7
29½	22½	Caledonian Med	29½		...	...
424	343	Capital Radio	424	+ 2	2.5	24.0
975	851	Carlton Comm	965	- 3	2.7	17.7
90	85	City of Lon	87	. .	6.3	13.3
149	83	Cordiant	104	. .	..	17.3

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
113	93	I&S UK Smllr	112	.	3.2	..
130	118	Inv Capt	128	- 1	5.1	...
87	78	Int Biotech	78		...	...
32	20	Int Wts	20		..	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	129	..	...	
96	82	J Fry 2nd U	91	...	8.3	..
94	83	J Fry Euro U	85	- 1	7.1	..
224	177	JF Fledg Jap	196½	- 2½	..	..
113	99	Jupiter Intl Grs	113	..	3.8	..
322	194	Kleinwort Chrt	230	- 1½	2.9	..
121	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	113	- 1	..	..

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
260	210	Bluebird Toyst	222	- 3	4.5	6.2
365	333	Boosey Hawkst	365	+ 5	2.0	21.0
3¾	2	Brent Walker	2¾		...	
185	159	Bristol Scotts	150		3.8	22.1
26¾	12	Casket Plc	16½	+ ½	8.3	9.1
256	251	Chrysalis	259	+ 2	..	
86	70½	City Centre Restt	84	- 1	3.0	16.8
349	305	Compass Gp	348	+ 2	2.5	18.0
285	238	Eurocamp	284	..	4.6	12.7
250	118	Euro Disney	218	- 1	...	..
165	93	Euro Leisure	115	- 1	..	.

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1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
118	110	Klnwt End	114	..		
81¼	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	79½	- 1½	0.3	.
27½	21½	Klnwt Euro Wts	25	- 1	...	
88	74	Klnwt H Inc	86	- 1	11.9	...
249½	213	Klnwt O'seas	243	- 2½	1.7	
127	111	Klnwt Smllr	127	.	2.2	..
125½	71	Latin American	107	- ¾	..	
810	718	Law Debenture	793	- 1	3.2	..
106	94	Lazard H Inc	96½	...	8.3	.
92	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	92	..		..
28½	26	Lloyds Sm Dir	26	..	17.5	...
118	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	118	..	3.9	.
175	160	Lon St Lawrencet	174	.	4.5	...

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
450	363½	Fairline Boats	403	- 5	4.8	18.6
124	105	First Choice	120	..	4.0	31.4
299	262	First Leisure	296	- 3	3.0	18.8
251½	224½	Fortet	243	...	3.9	24.9
175	143	Friendly Hotelst	147	...	4.8	..
588	475	Granada	584	...	2.1	17.4
125	108	Groupe Chez Ger	124	..	0.8	17.2
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	30	...	6.7	...
135	96	Hornby	113	.	5.5	21.2
193½	156¾	Jurys Hotel	193½	+ 5¾	3.5	17.5
20¾	14¾	Kunick	20¾	. .	3.0	23.6
312½	264	London Clubs	308	...	4.8	15.7
187½	161	Ladbrokef	181	+ 1	4.1	55.0

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
201	182	Majedie	200	.	3.3	
57	42	Marston	42			
274	241	Merchantst	270	- 2½	5.3	.
89½	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	87½	- 1	0.9	.
32	23¼	Mercury Eur Wt	29½	- ¼		
95	78	Mercury World	86	- 1½	1.0	.
31	14½	Mercury Wld Wts	20½	- ½		
540	482	Monks Inv Tst	535	- 5	1.8	
145	125	Morg Gren Inc	142	- 1	4.5	
53	40½	Morg Wts	50	- 3	...	
86	48	Morg Latin Amer	65½	- 1	...	
49	20	Morg Wts	34½	...		
120	104	Murray Eur	119	..	2.3	.
34	23	Murray Eml Wts	28	..		
92	73	Murray Emg Eco	85	...		
40	25	Murray Em Ec Wt	29½	. .		

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
6½	2½	Wembley	2½	..		
135	98	Zetters Gp	115	...	10.3	9.0

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
370	335	Abbott Mead	364	..	2.5	23.5
310	276	Adscene	293		3.0	18.3
28½	22	Aegis Gp	28½	- ½	..	11.4
7¾	2¼	Allied Radio	2¾	..		
13	11	BBB Design	11		...	30.4
205	156	Barbour Index	205	+ 5	5.3	18.3
6¼	5	Brindale	5	- ¼	..	
335	315	Black (A&C)t	320	.	5.5	11.3

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
100	84	Seafield	100	...		
774	687	Shellt	753½	..	4.5	18.8
118	116	Sunrise Eng Sv	#116			
4228¾	3234¾	Total	3934¾	+ 46¾	3.8	
10½	6½	Viltrs Grp	10			
284	221	Woodside	257	- 4	1.4	
58	33	XCL	35			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
98	75	BWD	84	- 1	6.2	8.1
132	126	Baltic Plc	131	.	2.9	7.1
78	50	Barry Bch Nat	52		6.3	..
156	148	Biotec Inv	150	..	..	

BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101⅛	100	Exch 10¼% 1995	100		10.18	6.28
104⅛	102⅝	Treas 12¾% 1995	102⅝	...	12.39	6.58
105⅛	104⅛	Treas 14% 1996	104⅛		13.37	6.61
109⅝	107½	Treas 15¼% 1996	107		14.18	6.84
107¼	105	Exch 13¼% 1996	105⅝		12.51	6.89
103	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.83	7.16
98	97⅛	Treas 7% 1997	98	..	7.07	7.39
109	108	Treas 13¼% 1997	109	..	12.15	7.36
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	105	-	10.00	7.36
102	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	102	+	8.54	7.61
116	114	Exch 15% 1997	115		12.93	7.64
105	102⅝	Exch 9¾% 1998	104	+	9.31	7.71
98	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	98	+	7.34	7.71
97	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	97	+	6.93	7.72
116	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116 †		12.06	7.68
122	120⅝	Treas 15½% 1998	122	-	12.67	7.79
112	109	Exch 12% 1998	112 †	-	10.68	7.89
105⅛	100⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	105	-	9.04	7.85
114⅛	111⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	114	...	10.74	7.94
108	105	Treas 10½% 1999	108	-	9.68	7.92
93	89	Treas 6% 1999	93	-	6.42	7.85
108	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	108 †	-	9.45	7.98
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
104	100	Conv 9% 2000	104	-	8.63	7.89
100	96	Treas 8% 2000	100 †	-	7.98	7.89
120	117	Treas 13% 2000	120	-	10.78	8.04
108	104	Treas 10% 2001	108	-	9.19	8.07
94	90	Treas 7% 2001	94	-	7.38	8.03
108	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	108	-	8.97	8.15
99	94	Treas 8% 2003	99 †	-	8.06	8.13
110	105	Treas 10% 2003	110	-	9.04	8.19
115	110	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	115	-	10.00	8.30
78	73	Fund 3½% 1999-04	78	+	4.46	8.73
108	103	Conv 9½% 2004	108	-	8.76	8.19
91	88	Treas 6¾% 2004	91 †	-	7.40	8.10
103	97	Treas 8½% 2005	102 xd	-	8.26	8.13
109	103	Conv 9½% 2005	108	-	8.73	8.17
125	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	124 xd	-	10.01	8.35
97	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	97	-	7.97	8.13
99	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	99	-	8.08	8.14
118	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	118	-	9.88	8.36
102	97	Treas 8½% 2007	102	-	8.27	8.14
131	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	131	-	10.25	8.34
107	101	Treas 9% 2008	106	-	8.42	8.14
98	94	Treas 8% 2009	98	-	8.10	8.14
LONGS (over 15 years)						
84	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	83 xd	-	7.46	8.10
107	101	Conv 9% 2011	107	-	8.37	8.15
108	102	Treas 9% 2012	107	-	8.34	8.14
77	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77	-	7.13	7.93
98	93	Treas 8% 2013	98	-	8.09	8.11
96	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	96	-	8.03	8.11
107	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	106	-	8.18	8.08
135	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	134 xd	-	8.90	8.29
UNDATED						
43	40	War Ln 3½%	43 †	-	8.08	...
30	28	Treas 2½%	30	-	8.25	...
48	45	Consols 4%	48	-	8.27	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
210	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	210	+	1.08	3.11
110	108	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	110	+	2.27	3.28
174	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	174	+	2.98	3.46
171	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	171 †	+	3.13	3.51
113	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	113	-	3.19	3.54
178	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	178	-	3.27	3.55
162	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	162 †	-	3.33	3.56
168	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	168	-	3.37	3.58
139	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	138	-	3.40	3.59
148	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	148	-	3.44	3.62
142	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	142	-	3.49	3.64
118	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	118	-	3.48	3.62
117	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	117	-	3.50	3.64

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	112	Brewin Dolphin	148		4.2	11.5
684	625	Caledonia	645		3.2	17.6
2400	2125	Camellia	2300	.	1.7	6.1
22½	16¾	Carlisle	17½		3.6	18.6
178	142	Cattlest	178		4.0	15.7
35	23	Chrisbo	23	..	..	50.8
17	13½	EFGt	13½		4.5	7.9
79	61	EFT Group	78		2.8	13.4
775	707	EFM	746	- 1	4.0	15.3
188	153	Excot	166	- 1	1.5	8.5
84	57	First Nat Fin	83		2.5	53.0
185	161	Gartmore	178	- 1	3.9	14.9
379	255	Govett	282	- ½	5.5	4.6
1148	983	Henderson Ad	1130	- 5	5.0	15.7
211	162½	Invescot	209	- ½	2.8	18.3
49	43	Investment Co	46	.	4.8	14.7
231	200½	Ivory Sime	213		4.4	16.6
248¾	186½	Jardine Strat	209½	- 10½	4.4	6.9
144	95	Johnson Fryt	102		3.5	5.7
188	137	Lon Forfaiting	162		7.2	14.1
126	116	Lon Scot Bk	126	- 1	4.1	16.5
175	153	Man ED & F	171	- 1	6.3	9.4
1143	953	M & G	1104	- 18	3.4	19.3
272	224	MAI	267		3.7	13.4
108	88	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	100½	+ 1	7.3	..
908	680	MAM	813	.	4.1	
130	96	Nat Home Loan	106		..	9.7
1500	1150	Perpetual	1578	- 5	3.3	14.8
598	515	Provident	589	- 2	4.4	14.5
310	245	Rathbone Brst	309	..	3.6	
28¾	24½	Rutland Tstt	25	...	4.8	11.3
324	287	S & U	289	+ 1	5.6	8.5
240	135	Stanelco	233		4.8	8.7
133	105	SJP Capital	123	- ½	3.0	8.7
439	410	South New Co	429		3.9	4.9
78	60	Towry Law	61	..	9.4	14.5
26	16	Tho Hldgs	16		0.8	26.3
35	21	Western Selectn	21		1.5	.

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
563	425	Brit Biotech	495	+ 1		
345	103	Cantab Pharms	135		...	...
308	233½	Celltech	304		...	...
144	92½	Chiroscience	141	- 1		.
44	31	Cortecs	44		.	..
191	103	Fisonst	180	- 3	3.0	..
749	587	Glaxo Wellcome	704	- 9	5.0	18.1
134	100	Grampian Hldg	118	..	6.1	15.1
264	162	Medevat	236	- 2	1.7	16.2
1½	¾	Premier Health			..	..
278	230	Quality Care	277		2.0	13.7
428	373	Scotia	406			
532	444	SmithKlineB	491	- 1	3.3	14.6

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
10	7	ERA Gp	7½			11.7
161	98	Essex Furn	118		4.9	13.1
236	170	Etam	216	- 1	4.6	17.1
391	320	Fine Art Dev	391	- 2	5.0	..
66	37	Fired Earth	46			21.3
114	81	Flying Flowers	110		2.1	14.4
295	256	French Conn	291			12.3
275	207	Frost Groupt	260		2.8	22.5
59	40	Gieves	55	+ 2	3.8	..
140	112	Goldsmiths Grp	135		2.7	12.6
609	508	GUS	592½	- 6½	2.8	17.0
218	179	Hardyst	215		4.1	10.2
56	35	Hampden Grp	53	...	3.8	14.3
175	142	Hse of Fraser	159	- 3	4.3	20.5
83	80	Hughes (TJ)	80	.	4.0	13.1
308	229	JJB Sportst	306	- 9	2.5	..
488	379	Kingfishert	458	- 17	4.1	14.5
150	95	Kleeneze	150	...	1.2	42.7
315	208	Libertyt	243		5.7	29.3
305	184	Lloyds Chemt	217	- 2	5.6	7.0
134	108	MFI	127	- 3	4.1	15.9
436½	371	Marks Spencer	416½	- 5½	2.9	18.5
540	500	Menzies (John)	537	- 2	2.9	12.7
438	338	Moss Brost	437	. .	3.4	..
327½	252	Nextt	323	- 5½	3.5	17.6
47	37	OEM	47			
96	88	Olives (G)	92	...	1.4	14.4
93	74	Partridge Fine	74	- 2	6.6	8.3
156	107	QS Hldgst	134	+ 2	4.8	15.8
19	7	Rhino Grp	15			
131	113	Rosebys	128	+ 6	4.7	14.0
113½	95	Sears	108½	- 1	4.6	15.8
24	13	Signet Group	15	- ½	..	...
484	351	Smith WH	351	- 65	5.6	18.0
888	638	Sothebyst	828	- 12	3.2	30.8
250	208	Storehouse	242	- 2	2.9	19.9
208	168	Stylo	189	.	4.8	10.6
173	143	T & S Storest	172	.	4.7	..
135	98	Tie Rack	125		2.3	13.1
4½	1¼	Upton & South	1½	- ½		
507	424	Vendome	485	- 1	2.4	22.1
35	24	WEW Group	31	..	2.9	25.9
67	47	Wld of Leathert	58	..	3.2	12.4
181	155	Wyevale	180		3.4	17.3

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
562	491	Allied Domecq	534	+ 1	5.7	12.2
427	390	Bulmer (HP)	427	.	3.2	23.1
121	99	Burn Stewart	106		5.9	21.8
410	352	Grand Met	384	- 8	4.7	17.1
480	404	Guinness	461½	- 6½	3.7	14.5
435	337	Highland Dist	359		2.6	16.2
217	175	Macallan-Glen	183		0.9	44.4
710	600	Macdon Mart 'A'	675		1.8	29.0
613	532	Matthew Clark	613	+ 2	3.8	28.1
88	61	Merrydown W	81		2.9	..
174	129	Taunton Cider	169	- 2	5.0	13.1

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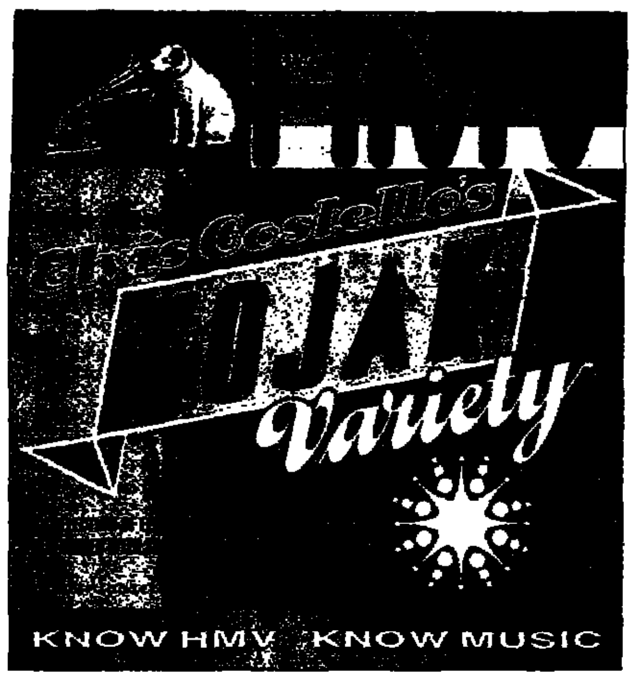
	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Ireland Amer	168.50	178.30	- 2.50	0.29
Ireland Equity	239.05	254.30†	- 7.40	2.44
Ireland Euro	209.10	221.30	- 3.20	0.24
Ireland Expl Bal	115.50	119.70		3.14
Ireland Gilt	75.18	77.51	+ 0.50	5.30
Ireland Japan	152.70	161.60	- 1.80	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	551.20	588.40	- 8.60	2.85
General Inc	480.50	511.20	- 7.60	2.85
UK Growth Acc	371.60	395.40†	- 5.50	2.98
UK Growth Inc	250.90	267.00†	- 3.70	2.96
Higher Inc Acc	688.70	732.70†	- 9.70	4.12
Higher Inc Inc	390.80	415.80†	- 5.50	4.12
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	191.40	202.20	+ 1.40	5.79
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	90.34	95.42	+ 0.82	5.79
Nth America	278.30	296.10†	- 0.90	..
Europe	283.50	301.70	- 2.30	0.90
Brit Excell	73.94	78.66†	- 1.12	3.08
Brit Fndmtls Acc	104.08	110.70	- 0.60	4.79
Brit Fndmtls Inc	74.57	79.34	- 0.41	4.79
Global Opps	86.64	92.18†	- 1.60	0.44
Balanced Acc	55.21	58.74†	- 0.52	3.07
Balanced Inc	53.50	56.92†	- 0.51	3.07
Japan Acc	45.06	47.94	- 0.62	..
Pac Basin Acc	366.60	390.00	- 6.00	0.90
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilt & Fixed Int	138.10	138.10	+ 1.70	7.24
High Inc Equity	163.00	174.30†	- 0.80	4.52
Worldwide Bond	281.40	299.40†	+ 1.60	4.36
Capital Growth				
American Growth	290.80	311.50	- 2.50	1.02
Asian Pacific	309.80	329.60	- 5.40	
Assets & Earnings	266.30	283.30†	- 6.20	2.93
Commdty & Energy	94.42	101.60	- 3.40	.13
Euro Capital Inc	138.00	147.60†	- 1.70	.65
(Accum Units)	148.10	158.30	- 1.90	.65
General	237.80	253.00	- 1.70	2.15
Japan	115.30	123.30	- 2.00	
Mastertrust	142.00	151.90	- 1.30	1.86
UK Growth Dist	119.00	127.30†	+ 0.70	3.02
US Emerging Cos	135.30	143.60	+ 3.70	
Income & Growth	389.30	414.20†	- 2.30	3.02
Ethical	68.22	72.57	+ 0.22	3.03
International	114.80	121.30	- 1.10	1.08
Dividend & Growth	61.46	65.38	- 0.31	4.39
Global Gwth & Sec	67.68	72.21	- 0.09	2.70
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£17.55	£18.25	+ 26.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amgt Inc & Growth	46.41	48.19†	- 0.67	0.64
Cash	50.45	50.45	+ 0.04	5.80
Emerging Mkts	68.85	72.71	- 0.26	0.05
European	115.30	120.50	- 1.20	
Exempt	977.80	£10.45†	+ 12.00	1.78
Extra Income	45.85	49.07	+ 0.06	6.15
Far East Emg Eco	118.30	123.40	+ 0.30	0.57
Fixed Interest	22.27	23.38†	+ 0.19	8.84
Fund Inv Tst	162.60	171.10†	+ 0.98	9.09
Japan	175.00	183.80	- 1.30	
Latin American	52.04	54.62	+ 0.58	0.89
Pacific	74.23	78.32†	- 0.88	0.34
Property Share	60.50	63.51	+ 0.02	2.15
UK Emerging Cos	62.17	65.28	+ 0.37	1.90
UK Growth	44.11	46.73†	- 0.52	2.51
Abtr World Port	72.25	78.33†	- 0.69	2.24
Ethical	62.65	65.76	- 0.13	2.68
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	40.88	40.88	+ 0.36	7.53
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 332 5000				
Uk General Tst	62.62	67.68	- 0.95	2.94
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	654.79	663.17		4.72
Accum	£38.00	£38.34		
Fixed Int Inc	120.55	120.84	...	9.52
Fixed Int Acc	192.95	193.43		
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 637 7867				
Int Growth	115.50	122.53	- 3.15	
UK Income	107.44	116.16	- 2.34	5.11
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 487 5968				
Blackstone Intl	81.29	87.06	+ 0.67	1.39
Beck Bio-Tech	27.35	28.99	- 0.09	
Accra Ethical Tst	149.91	157.42	+ 0.34	0.69
City Fin Assets	71.49	75.05†	+ 1.64	1.88
City Fin America	92.06	96.67	- 2.13	
City Fin Intl	78.22	83.92†	+ 1.14	0.88
City Fin Japan	153.51	161.79	- 7.16	
Friars Hse Cap	279.07	301.74	- 6.10	1.63
Friars Hse Inc	191.95	208.23†	+ 5.39	4.25
Buckley Wrld Gth	123.77	131.23	- 1.55	
Famwell Cap Gth	134.09	143.05†	- 0.54	
Fairmount Intl	146.20	156.47†	+ 0.70	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	53.43	57.69	- 0.32	4.25
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	56.33	59.77	- 1.37	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	61.25	65.51	+ 0.76	
Atlas Mngd Gwth	30.70	32.25	- 0.56	0.57
Dragon Growth	66.60	71.44	- 1.36	0.64
Equity High Inc	82.75	87.96	- 0.97	4.10
(Accum Units)	112.08	119.23	- 1.31	4.10
European Gwth	52.19	55.52	- 1.09	1.31
Evergreen	27.94	29.88	- 0.48	
General Equity	83.61	88.71	- 1.18	2.90
Japan Growth	48.01	51.35	- 1.79	
Recovery Gwth	51.66	54.32	- 0.63	2.83
Pen Sm Cos Inc	30.79	32.75	+ 0.22	1.52
(Accum Units)	31.58	33.61	+ 0.23	1.52
Retirement Inc	25.62	27.25	- 0.26	5.76
Special Sits	37.87	40.29	- 0.12	2.12
UK & Overseas	48.52	51.62	- 0.74	1.33
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	69.01	73.15	- 0.89	2.02
Income	62.57	66.33	- 0.27	4.06
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	157.30	167.34†	- 1.65	5.23
Fixed & Convertible	38.60	41.06†	+ 0.12	7.26
Monthly Inc Plus	47.09	50.10†	+ 0.33	8.94
Preference Share	44.76	47.62†	+ 0.18	7.90
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	119.99	127.55†	- 0.81	6.37
Managed Fund	67.65	71.97†	- 0.72	3.26
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	37.65	40.05†	+ 0.17	2.03
(Accum Units)	43.82	46.62†	+ 0.21	2.03
UK & General	78.90	83.94†	- 0.97	3.04
(Accum Units)	100.01	106.39†	- 1.24	3.04
UK Growth	144.85	154.18†	- 2.69	2.02
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	190.86	202.10†	- 4.48	0.12
Far Eastern Gth	124.76	132.72†	- 3.32	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
International	77.00	81.90	- 0.18	0.85
Ecology	81.86	86.86	+ 0.21	1.24
European	124.58	132.47	- 1.90	...
Far Eastern	289.08	307.40	- 6.00	..
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	49.88	52.98	- 0.43	7.27
Gilt Yield	116.80	122.20	+ 0.80	8.55
Global Income	208.20	221.50†	- 1.90	4.43
High Yield	135.70	144.40†	- 1.50	8.14
(Accum Units)	415.40	441.90†	- 4.50	8.14
Smllr Cos Div	51.58	54.07†	+ 0.38	3.05

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01689 825867				
Balanced Fd	£13.10	£15.35†	- 6.50	3.30
Income	988.40	£10.03	- 2.20	4.60
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	137.70	141.80	..	4.24
MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD				
Dealings: 01438 747 414				
Growth Units	203.10	217.20	+ 0.70	2.28
Gilt & Fxd Int	170.30	179.40	+ 0.90	8.55
Intl Growth	211.50	225.10	- 0.90	0.35



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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	94.43	100.60	+ 0.10	
North American	79.39	84.46	- 0.30	0.15
European Special	110.80	117.70	- 7.40	0.13
European	155.00	164.90	- 3.70	0.36
(Accum Units)	203.60	216.60	- 4.80	0.36
Global Eqty Inc	102.90	109.50	- 1.80	1.10
Japan	384.20	408.70†	- 10.60	
Japanese Special	209.70	223.10	- 8.50	
Master Accum	237.80	253.00	- 0.20	0.55
Pacific	322.50	343.10	- 5.70	...
(Accum Units)	378.20	402.30	- 6.80	..
Smaller Cos	109.60	116.60†	+ 0.40	1.90
UK Equity Growth	38.38	40.83	- 0.45	1.59
UK Index Inc	278.10	279.79	- 3.20	4.11

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
North American	195.40	208.60	+ 1.60	0.43
Far East	275.70	294.90	- 0.49	1.27
UK Smaller Cos	177.90	190.30	+ 1.10	1.71
European	83.34	88.54	+ 0.47	0.35
Japanese Growth	47.07	50.13	- 0.92	
High Income	190.30	203.50	+ 0.68	4.07
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflio	153.50	161.50	- 1.50	2.24
-do- Accum	176.60	185.80	- 1.60	2.24
UK Sel Ptflio	132.40	139.40	- 1.20	2.47
-do- Accum	153.90	162.00	- 1.50	2.47
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				

Davies falls behind at Chart Hills as Belgian throws caution to wind

Descampe caps day of adventure

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MARC ASPLAND

Descampe strikes out for the eleventh green at Chart Hills yesterday during a second round of 67 which equalled the course record

THOUGH golf is meant to encourage self-control, there are those on whom it exercises little restraining effect. Laura Davies plays the game as she lives her life — to the full — and so does Florence Descampe. In a game otherwise noted for its stiff upper lip, these two are a breath of fresh air.

In the Ford Classic at Chart Hills yesterday, Davies attracted the largest gallery, hundreds of spectators wrapped up against the Kent weather and willing her unsuccessfully to play better, while up ahead of her Descampe moved to take a two-stroke lead.

Her 67 was a course record and compiled in typically-exuberant Descampe fashion. She walked vigorously and talked quickly, gesticulating a lot and again and again fidgeted with her hair. Her swing is long, slightly loose and has a pronounced sway.

She looks as though she has fun. What gives the game away completely is her headgear — a baseball cap from which a torrent of blonde hair tumbles out at the back. Emblazoned on the front of the cap are the words Absolutely. No Fear. Positively. If one describes it as a motto, then it is as true for Descampe (and Davies) as *Who Dares Wins* is for the SAS.

Last week Colin Montgomerie was talking about how some golfers can get to within two or three strokes of the lead and then do not want to play any better. They are consciously or subconsciously afraid that by trying harder they will actually play worse.

They are, Montgomerie said, in their comfort zone. Descampe is not one of those faint hearts. For that matter, nor is Davies. Descampe, who is Belgian, wants to be right in the spotlight, experiencing the full blast of pressure. "I'm not interested in finishing somewhere in the top twenty," Descampe says.

"My idea of fun is to be in the last group playing with the leaders. I like pressure."

On Thursday evening she altered her putting stance in the course of a one and a half hour practice session to try and improve what would have been the weakest part of her game all year. Immediately she began to feel more comfortable. Since the rest of her game had been sound for most of this year, it is no surprise that once her putting had improved her scoring would improve, too. She had nine birdies in her second round and 25 putts. She also had two penalty strokes when she hit a ball into water.

Descampe, a vociferous member of the Solheim Cup team that defeated the Americans in Edinburgh in 1992, is getting married in three weeks. Her husband-to-be, a six-handicapper, is a diamond broker in Antwerp. His name is Daniel van Dievoet, which as someone pointed out, is the word divot without the two 'e's.

As Descampe reached eight under par after 36 holes and took a two-stroke lead over Laura Fairclough and Susan Hodge, Davies continued to splutter along like a car suffering from a petrol blockage. Her 73 was the same as her first round total so that she hasan aggregate of two over par and is ten strokes behind Descampe at the halfway stage.

Davies and Descampe are linked together not only by their carefree approach to golf but also by the fact that Mark Fulcher, Descampe's caddie, worked for Davies for one and a half years. And before that, he caddied for Descampe.

A smile of affection came over Dscampe's face at the mention of Fulcher's name. "He has known me since I was nineteen," Descampe, who will be 26 on June 1, said. "He is like a brother to me. Of my seven wins, five have come with him. We get on extremely well together."

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS

GB and Ire unless stated

136: F Descampe (Bel) 69, 67
140: C Hjalmarsson (Swe), 71, 69.
143: L Hackney 75, 68
146: L Tadiotto (Bel) 73, 73.
147: H Hopkins (Aus) 74, 73; M de Boer (Hol) 73, 74.
148: M-G Estuesta (Phil) 74, 74.
149: S van Wyk (SA) 74, 75.
150: N Buxton 76, 74; A Rogers 78, 72.
151: R Comstock (US) 81, 70.
153: B Pestana (SA) 76, 77.
154: A DuBois (US) 77, 77.
156: L Percival 79, 77.
157: S Nicklin 81, 76.

Muster means business in time for Paris

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN ROME

PROPITIOUSLY, ten days before the start of the French Open, Thomas Muster is gathering unstoppable momentum on clay. During an astonishing quarter-final here yesterday, he overwhelmed Michael Chang, the second seed, to extend his unbeaten sequence on his favourite surface to 26 matches.

Since losing to Emilio Sánchez in the second round in Palermo last October, he has collected titles in Mexico City, Estoril, Barcelona and, after saving a match point against Boris Becker in the final, Monte Carlo. Another, the Italian Open, which he claimed in 1990, now beckons.

From the moment he was broken in the third game, the American was never in contention. At one stage, unable to resist the blistering power and intent of the intimidating Austrian, he conceded 14 points in a row and, within a mere 70 minutes, he yielded 6-3, 6-2.

Muster, overflowing with belief, appears to have reached the sublime stage of astral planing when he is on court. "I love to see myself playing," he explained. "It is like watching a great movie by Spielberg. I love the job now like I've never done before."

Muster seemed to be unusually carefree about his prospects in Paris. "If it happens, it will be a good day in the office. If not, I'll have an extra week's holiday," he said.

In today's semi-final he will meet either Wayne Ferreira, the fourth seed from South Arica, or Stefan Edberg, the eighth from Sweden.

The two other quarter-finals on a sunlit afternoon were not matches to watch after a couple of glasses of Pinot Grigio. The general quality was contrastingly low and the predictability of the outcome too high to sustain interest.

Jeff Tarango had never faced Goran Ivanisevic's serve before and initially did not know how to cope with it. Midway through the first set, he took to charging, playing it almost as a half-volley. Later, in desperation, he invented another novel and equally unproductive approach.

He held the head of his racket and swiped at the speeding ball with the handle. It was a gesture of resignation, and no wonder. The only point that he won outright off Ivanisevic's serve throughout the first set was a mishit return which ballooned softly over the net.

As he was ineffective, so Ivanisevic was lackadaisical, contributing 45 of the 70 unforced errors. Once he had saved three set points at 5-6, he raised his game to take the tie-break 7-2, but the standard remained poor until the last.

Tarango, the only unseeded member of the last eight, double-faulted to offer a match point and even the listless Ivanisevic could not refuse such generosity. In the semi-final he will play Sergi Bruguera, the reigning French Open champion from Spain, who beat Jonas Bjorkman, of Sweden, 6-4, 6-1.

Tennis results 39

☐ *Greg Rusedski is awaiting official confirmation that he can play for Great Britain. His application to change his allegiance from Canada, where he was born, will be discussed by the management committee of the International Tennis Federation in Rome this afternoon.*

Rudeski's mother is British and, providing approval is given, he would be available for the next Davis Cup tie, against Monaco in Eastbourne in July. The 21-year-old left-hander, ranked 58th in the world, has recorded the fastest serve in the game, timed at 137mph.

Spanish steps slowed by over-enthusiastic support

FROM MEL WEBB
IN MADRID

WHOEVER put Severiano Ballesteros and José María Olazábal in the same group for the first two rounds of the Spanish Open at Club de Campo made a serious error of judgment. Who says so? Even as muted accusations of slow play by the three-ball containing Spain's two best golfers were being voiced yesterday, it was Ballesteros himself who stepped forward and launched a spirited defence on behalf of his group.

Ballesteros, Olazábal and Jesper Parnevik, the Swede who was the third member of the troika, took four hours and 45 minutes to go round, finishing more than 40 minutes behind the group ahead.

It was the first time that Ballesteros and Olazábal had been drawn to play in the same group on Spanish soil, and it seemed that every golf-loving Madrileno and his wife wanted to see them.

"It might have seemed that we were playing a bit slowly, but we were carrying the whole crowd round with us," Ballesteros said. "We tried to speed up over the last eight holes, but it spoilt our concentration.

"This was a very special situation, Jose Maria and I playing together. I don't think we should have been called upon to speed up the game. I hit a good drive on the 14th but almost shanked my one-iron, then the referee came up to us and said I had had two time breaches. I wasn't very happy about that."

Olazábal, who also had two breaches, has rarely been in trouble with the men with the stopwatches, but it is not the first time that Ballesteros has fallen foul of the PGA European Tour's pace of play regulations. He was warned at the BMW International in Munich last year, but was not fined. The clock finally caught up with him in the Volvo Masters at Valderrama in October, when he was fined £500 for having three breaches in the second round.

"I'm always glad to play with José María because he is a great champion and a very close friend," he said. "But this time playing us together has been negative. I think that with the fantastic field we have here this week the great champions in the field should have been split up, and we would still have had great pairings."

Ballesteros finished with a 67 and was four shots off the pace that was set for the second day by Peter Mitchell, who had a 67 to add to his first-round 66. This time, though, he had to share the lead on 133, 11 under par, with Ignacio Garrido, who had a 66.

Yet again Mitchell showed a penchant for snaffling eagles and not needing his putter. On the first day he had three eagles, chipped in once and holed a bunker shot. Yesterday he had another eagle — at the 12th — and a further chip-in, this time from 25 feet at the 3rd.

Mitchell identifies his golf balls by painting the name of one of his three daughters on them. This week, his eldest, seven-year-old Kylie, is the choice.

"She's doing all right at the moment," Mitchell said. "If she lets me down tomorrow, she'll get the sack." If Kylie continues to do her stuff, and Dad takes the £91,660 winner's cheque on Sunday, a substantial raise in pocket money should be negotiated without delay.

SCORES

GB and Ire unless stated

EARLY SECOND-ROUND LEADERS: 133: P Mitchell 66, 67; I Garrido (Sp) 67, 66. 136: J Townsend (US) 69, 67. S McAllister 69, 67 137: S Ballesteros (Sp) 70, 67; J Rivero (Sp) 68, 69. C Rocca (It) 68, 69; G Brand Jr 71, 66. 138: S Grappasonni (It) 70, 68; M Roe 69, 69: D Gilford 69, 69, D Carter 70, 68; H Clark 69, 69. 139: J Robson 69, 70: D Hospital (Sp) 71, 68. S Torrance 70, 69; M Harwood (Aus) 69, 70 140: J Bland (SA) 71, 69, G Levenson (SA) 69, 71; R McFarlane 72, 68, W Riley (Aus) 69, 71

Maleeva beats Pierce on and off the court

MARY PIERCE was ushered out of the quarter-finals of the German Open by Magdalena Maleeva 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 yesterday, but the Bulgarian was not ready to let the matter rest there, laying into Pierce's on-court conduct after the match was over (Alix Ramsey writes).

A break down in the third set, Pierce, of France, called for the trainer to treat a slight muscle strain in her right upper arm. After three minutes of treatment and further assistance in the next changeover, Pierce seemed to be going through the motions, falling behind 1-4. But, when the chance to break back presented itself, Pierce was able to forget the pain in her racquet arm and fight back.

"If she's losing, she's always handicapped by an injury," Maleeva said. "I admire her as a player, I even admire her sometimes as a person, but what she does in matches is terrible. I don't know why she can't understand that sometimes she's going to lose."

Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, from Spain, the world No 1, beat Kimiko Date, of Japan, 6-3, 6-0. Natasha Zvereva, of Belorussia, beat the Australian, Nicole Bradtke, 7-6, 6-2.

Trojans in way of Hightown double

BY A CORRESPONDENT

SARAH GILROY, who coaches the Trojans and is assistant national coach, has played down any hint of personal rivalry between her and Maggie Souyave, the Hightown and England coach, when the two clubs meet in the All-England Women's Hockey Association Cup final at Milton Keynes Sports Club tomorrow.

"It's not really an issue," she said. "Obviously, I have an insight into how Souyave prepares, but I don't want to second-guess what she might do, because then I'll lose my own sense of style. We both share the same philosophy about taking risks, and there's no point playing defensively."

The Southampton first division side starts underdog against Hightown, who have been finalists three times and are hoping to make it a national indoor and outdoor double.

Gilroy points out, however, that her team, which had never progressed beyond the third round before, has knocked out three Premiership clubs, Bracknell, the holders, Slough and Leicester.

Gilroy believes that the former England goalkeeper, Julie Williams, Lisa Copeland, Sally Gibson and Kathryn James are her key players against the Merseysiders, who field seven past and present senior internationals.

HIGHTOWN: C Reid, F Lee, M Souyave, J Aspin, L Carr, J Crook, L Marsden, C Cook, T Cullen, T Mawdsley, D Mills, C Gilbert, L Newcombe, M Morton

TROJANS: J Williams, M Kemp, M Suter, E Teague, L Copeland, S Strange, J Moss, S Hibberd, S Gibson, K James, K Smith, A Wakefield, J Greenham, S Manchester, J Price, L Shapherd.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Cup
Final
* Everton v Manchester Utd ....
(at Wembley Stadium)

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Pegasus Juniors v Bicester

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Tottenham v Fulham.

CRICKET

Tetley Bitter Challenge
11 0, second day of three
TAUNTON: Somerset v West Indians

Britannic Assurance county championship
11 0, third day of four, 110 overs minimum
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Warwickshire
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Kent
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Derbyshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Lancashire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey
HOVE: Sussex v Essex
BRADFORD: Yorkshire v Glamorgan

University match
11 0, final day of three
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Heworth v Mayfield (2.30); Woolston v West Hull (2.30).

HOCKEY

PORTSMOUTH: Norwich Union county championship: Quarter-finals: IFV Berkshire (10.0); Kent v Derbyshire (12.0); Suffolk v Yorkshire (2.0). Nottinghamshire v Durham (4.0) Under-21 semi-finals: Nottinghamshire v Cheshire (1.30); Essex v Gloucestershire (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League: Barcelona Dragons v London Monarchs (7.0); Amsterdman Admirals v Scottish Claymores (7.0)

GOLF: Ford women's classic (Chart Hills, Kent).

SPEEDWAY: (7 30 unless stated): Premier League: Bradford v Reading; Coventry v Belle Vue, Eastbourne v Oxford; Swindon v Sheffield Richard Knight Farewell: King's Lynn v Ipswich v Peterborough.

TENNIS: Women's British clay-court championships (Bournemouth)

TOMORROW

CRICKET

Tetley Bitter Challenge
11 0, final day of three
TAUNTON: Somerset v West Indians

Axa Equity & Law League
2 0, 40 overs
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Warwickshire
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Kent
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Derbyshire
LORD'S: Middlesex v Lancashire
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Surrey
HOVE: Sussex v Essex
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Glamorgan

MCC TROPHY (one day): Aylesbury: Buckinghamshire v Bedfordshire Warrington: Ceshire v Staffordshire Falmouth: Cornwall v Devon Shrewsbury: Shropshire v Dorset

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3 0 unless stated

Kirin Cup
Japan v Scotland
(Big Arch Stadium, Hiroshima, 4.0)

Bell's Scottish League Play-off
First leg
Aberdeen v Dunfermline ....

ALLBRIGHT BITTER WELSH CUP: Final: Cardiff v Wrexham (at National Stadium, Cardiff).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter premiership
Finals
First division
Wigan v Leeds
(at Old Trafford, 4.0) ....
Second division
Keighley v Huddersfield
(at Old Trafford, 1.30) ....

HOCKEY

PORTSMOUTH: Norwich Union county championship: Semi-finals (10.30). Final (3.30) Under-21 final (1 30).

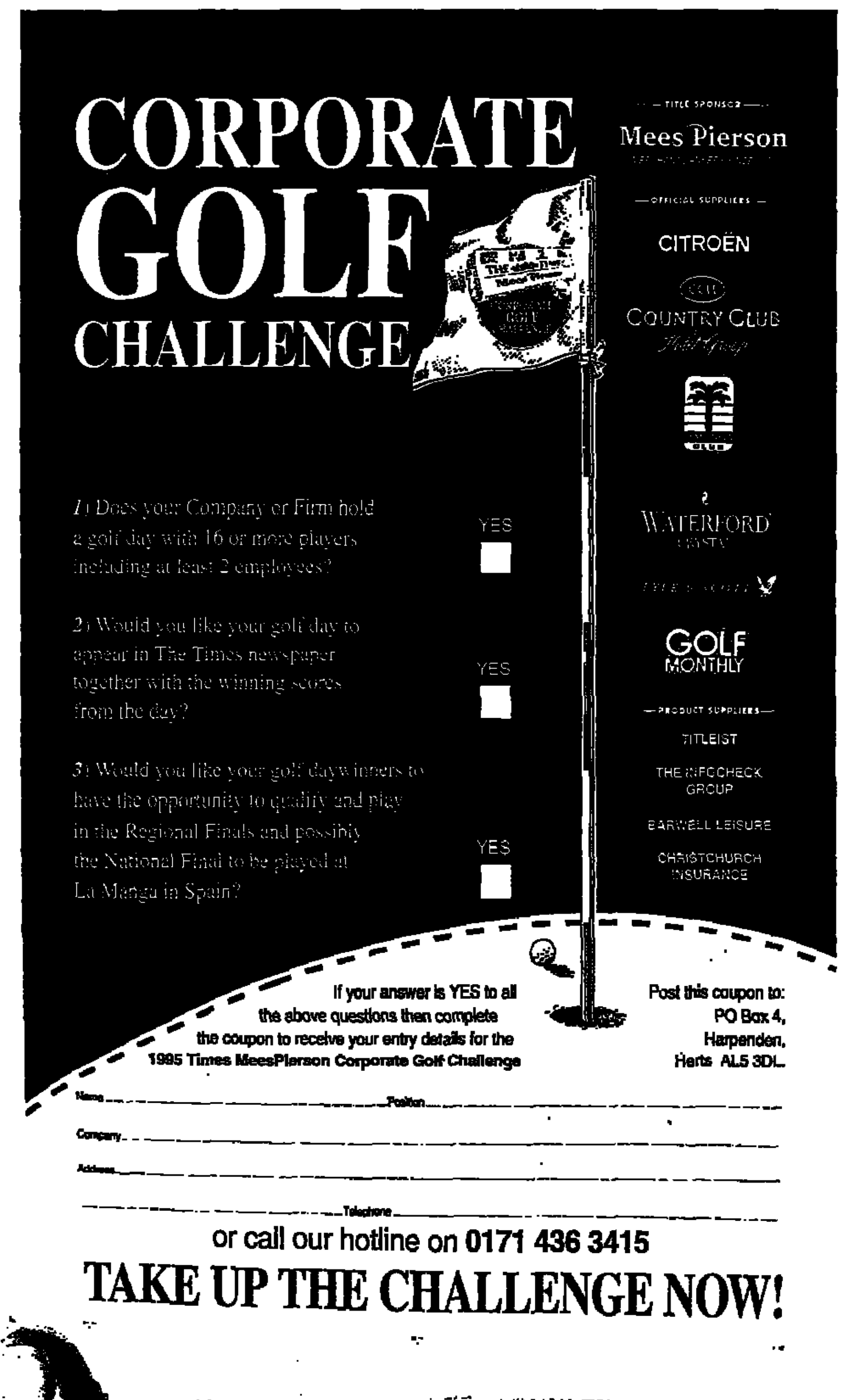
MILTON KEYNES: AEWHA Cup: Final: Hightown v Trojans (2 30) Plate final: Liverpool v Crimson Ramblers (10 0). Under-15 final: Harleston Magpies v King Edward VI Girls School, Edgbaston.

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Ford women's classic (Chart Hills, Kent).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Glasgow v Reading (6 30) Knock Out Cup: First round: Mildenhall v Sittingbourne (3.30).

TENNIS: Women's British clay court championships (Bournemouth)



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مكبر من الاصل

Somerset suffer as West Indies find solution to opening problem

Hooper produces strokeplay of the highest order

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TAUNTON (first day of three; the West Indians won toss): the West Indians have scored 398 for five wickets against Somerset.

TALENT has never been a problem to Carl Hooper. He has always been able to bat with an easy elegance given to few and yet his career at the highest level has been a catalogue of disappointment. For too long, he has been a slave to impetuosity but now, just when many were prepared to dismiss him as a hopeless case, West Indies may have unlocked the enigma.

Hooper averages barely 30 after 51 Test matches in the middle order. For such a player, this is underachievement on a reprehensible scale, cause for prolonged hair-tearing in the selection chamber. As an attempted solution, the conversion of Hooper into an opener may be interpreted as a last resort, but it could well prove to be the most inspired decision of the cricketing summer.

Hooper took a liking to his new duties when he made 173 not out at Arundel a week ago. That, admittedly, was against largely geriatric bowling and the decimated Somerset attack at Taunton yesterday was not notably more challenging. Not to Hooper, anyway. Showing an appetite for the long innings that so often has been beyond him, he scored 176, all but 38 of them in boundaries. He made the game look absurdly simple throughout.

The brooding, lugubrious presence of Hooper conceals unsuspected depths and Kent, to whom he will return next season, consider he must rank among the most influential of county overseas players. England, naturally, will be reluctant to see such a reputation translate, however belatedly, to Test cricket but Hooper's promotion to the head of the order has already given the West Indies batting a more assured balance.

Richie Richardson, the captain, remains at odds with himself and yesterday managed just one edged four before "walking" for a bat-pad catch to the first ball he received from Mushtaq Ahmed. Keith Arthurton, who preens and struts rather more than his record yet merits, is another who cannot be relied upon but the plan to install Shivnarine Chanderpaul at No 6 extends and strengthens the batting.

Two winters ago, England saw more than they would have wished of the correct, compact Chanderpaul. He did not feature against Australia last month, having shown an alarming susceptibility to Shane Warne, but the measured way he played yesterday, in partnership with the equally stoical Jimmy Adams, was significant reassurance for a West Indies side with more than its usual share of concerns.

Hooper's opening place may now be confirmed but his partner remains in doubt. Here, Sherwin Campbell, dropped before the end of the Australia series, made 93 of the first-wicket stand of 242. He played some exotic shots, too, but without Hooper's disdainful mastery of a negligible attack on an unresponsive pitch. Somerset's only consolation was that they did not then have to contend with Brian Lara, who was resting a minor groin strain.

Somerset's season is already in disarray, their lofty championship ambitions sabotaged by long-term injuries to four seam bowlers, a casualty list unsustainable within a pruned playing staff of 17. Yesterday, the club insisted that Andy Caddick will return before the end of the season, despite complications to his shin problem, but Andre van Troost's spinal fracture now needs remedial treatment at Lilleshall.

Andy Hayhurst, the captain, was reluctant to flog the willing warhorse, Graham Rose, who will face many long days in more competitive affairs than this, so much of the bowling was done by Ecclestone, Parsons and himself, all inoffensive military medium. It did not provide a demanding examination for the touring side but, after 45 minutes had been lost to rain at the start of the day, they will at least have been grateful for the sun on their backs.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIANS: First Innings

C L Hooper c Mushtaq b Parsons	176
S L Campbell c Trump b Hayhurst	93
*R B Richardson c Trescothick b Mushtaq	4
J C Adams not out	63
K L T Arthurton c Turner b Ecclestone	9
S Chanderpaul c and b Trump	30
†C O Browne not out	13
Extras (lb 8, w 2)	10
Total (5 wkts, 94 overs)	398

C A Walsh, C E L Ambrose, K C G Benjamin and R Dhanraj to bat.

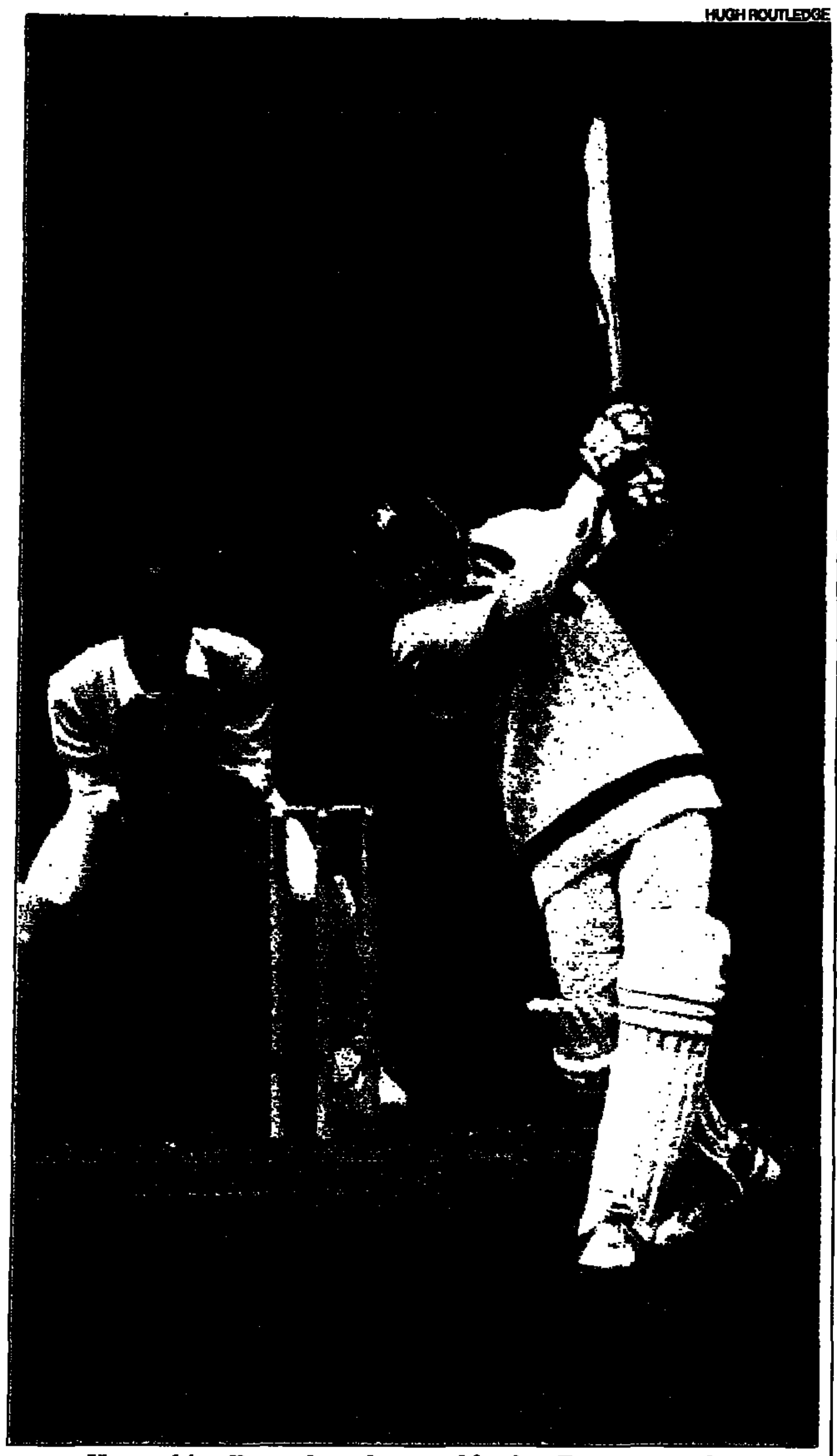
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-242, 2-251, 3-287, 4-315, 5-370.

BOWLING: Rose 15-5-37-0; Ecclestone 19-2-96-1; Hayhurst 9-0-60-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 15-3-75-1; Parsons 15-2-51-1; Trump 16-4-61-1; Trescothick 5-2-10-0.

SOMERSET: M N Lathwell, M E Trescothick, P D Bowler, R J Harden, *A N Hayhurst, G D Rose, S C Ecclestone, †R J Turner, Mushtaq Ahmed, H R J Trump, K A Parsons.

Umpires: K E Palmer and R Palmer.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Hooper drives Trump down the ground for six at Taunton yesterday

Umpires report Bradford pitch

By Geoffrey Wheeler

YORKSHIRE members have been spared a choice between cricket and the FA Cup Final today. They should have time for both, for unless something goes horribly wrong Yorkshire should complete victory before lunch over Glamorgan on a Bradford pitch which has been reported by the umpires, John Holder and Peter Willey, for offering excessive bounce.

The match officials were unhappy that nine wickets fell for 117 runs in the morning session yesterday, a period which saw Yorkshire scramble a first-innings lead of 54, despite Steve Watkin's six for 55.

Peter Hartley pressed home Yorkshire's advantage by taking the first six wickets, bringing his tally to 30 for the season, before Glamorgan rallied from 101 for six, Tony Cottey making a solid 51, which enabled them to reach 212 and leave Yorkshire 159 to win. They have made 72 of the runs for the loss of two wickets on a pitch playing more predictably.

Hampshire off spinner Shaun Udal celebrated his selection for the Texaco Trophy squad by taking five for 81 as Kent were dismissed for 288 at Southampton where Hampshire were left a victory target of 359. This is a tall order for a team still without a batting point and which, earlier in the day, had lost its last six wickets in the first innings for 22 runs as Martin McCague (5-47) and Al;an Igglesden swept all before them.

James Whitaker hit the 28th century of his career and his sixth against Derbyshire to steer Leicestershire to a handy first innings lead of 101 at Grace Road, in spite of fine bowling from Dominic Cork, who took five for 74.

Whitaker and Vince Wells shared a fourth wicket stand of 102 and then Phil Whitticase joined Whitaker in a partnership of 98 for the seventh wicket. But led by Kim Barnett, Derbyshire cleared the arrears for the loss of two wickets.

Wells quick to celebrate

By Jack Bailey

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 310 runs ahead of Essex

WHAT a difference a day makes — especially if your name is Alan Wells, you play for Sussex and you have been called up by England for the first time in a long career, after a string of low scores had caused you to push such a possibility to the back of your mind.

Since he made a century in each innings at the beginning of May, against Kent, Wells, in all matches, had made 0, 0, 14, 4, 4, but news of his call to Trent Bridge did something for him yesterday.

Before he was bowled round his legs, sweeping at John Childs, he made 69 of the most exhilarating runs you are likely to see. He made them from 97 balls and, in taking the Essex attack apart, he hit ten fours and a pulled six off Irani that was still rising as it cleared the boundary advertising boards at midwicket.

Things being what they are, he may well not be picked for the final 11 in Nottingham, but anyone who saw *him* here would be willing to take the chance, with both hands.

Wells at the crease has an authority possessed by few — Graham Gooch is another — and his on drive is out of a textbook written by Peter May.

In the context of this match, his innings has helped greatly in setting Essex a formidable task. Having been spared the ignominy of following on only by the grace of their ninth-wicket pair, Essex found themselves 141 runs behind on the first innings.

By the time Wells was out, they were 278 adrift with the saviours of the Sussex first innings, Greenfield and Moores, to come.

Sussex have these two to thank for seeing them through to the end of the day and for a very strong position indeed.

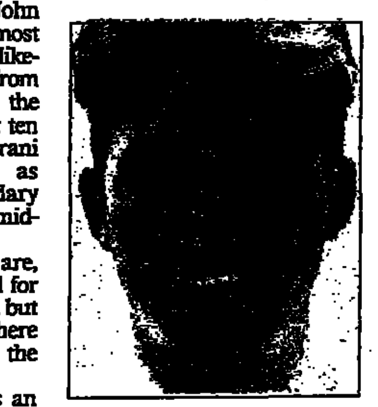
Things can change, but as they stand, Sussex have this game by the throat, especially if Lewis, who was *hors de combat* in the afternoon, is unable to bat today. Once they had overcome their dreadful start, they have batted better and have contrived to look more alert, more purposeful and more proficient than Essex.

Their bowling was admirably handled and they bowled to an attacking length. At one time, with Giddins whistling in with the wind behind him from the Sea End, Wells employed a Carmody field.

Four slips and two gulleys confronted the Essex middle order and tail after Giddins had disposed of the two overnight batsmen, Lewis and Hussain. Giddins finished with well-merited figures of five for 48, after a spell yesterday of three for 15 in four overs.

Stephenson was also on song and Salisbury did a good leg-spinner's job on what remained of the tail.

When Sussex began their second innings, Ilott continued to enjoy the pace in the pitch, accounting for both Sussex openers. But this served only to let in Wells and he saw to it that a cold day remained, for Essex, cheerless to the end.



Giddins: five wickets

Lancashire in debt to Wasim again

By Simon Wilde

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 297 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE are on the most spectacular roll. Their winning start to the season was halted earlier this week only when rain ruined their ninth match, but they are likely to make the earliest possible return to victorious ways. Rain may have again played a part — cutting 53 overs from the day — but Lancashire made such great strides yesterday that a three-day dispatch of Middlesex is probable rather than possible.

For their dominating position they have to thank Wasim Akram, who bowled wonderfully. On a pitch offering generous movement, his figures of four for 30 from 15.2 overs — including the scalps of Gatting, Ramprakash and Carr — dwarfed those of all his seam rivals, including Martin, who celebrated his England call-up with the figures of 16-9-10-1, but did not pose the same threat.

With Chapple producing a fine inswinger to bowl Pooley, who had laboured 87 minutes over seven runs, and Gallian chipping in with the wicket of Nash, Middlesex ended the day four balls early — Wasim removing Johnson, the nightwatchman, with a yorker — on a feeble 78 for seven, still 148 runs from saving the follow-on.

Lancashire looked like taking wickets from almost the first ball. Gatting somehow survived until the seventh over, when Wasim produced a classic double. A searing inswinger accounted for Gatting leg-before and an outswinger then greeted Ramprakash, another England selection, who could only edge it low to Atherton at second slip. Carr survived the hat-trick ball but later fell leg-before playing no stroke. Weekes showed his pedigree with 27 out of 33 in the next hour and Brown lasted the 90 minutes before stumps.

Lancashire's depth of talent was shown by the way Chapple and Yates raised the overnight total from 338 to 375 in 39 balls. All of this Lancashire side have first-class hundreds to their credit. Indeed, if they drew up a batting order on career averages alone, their No 11 would not be Hegg, Martin or Chapple — who finished unbeaten on 40 yesterday — but Wasim.

Surrey fall victim to Kumble's guile

By Rupert Cox

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Surrey, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 142 runs behind Northamptonshire

ANIL KUMBLE, Northamptonshire's 24-year-old Indian overseas recruit, produced an exemplary spell of leg-spin bowling to enhance the championship leaders' position against fifth-placed Surrey. The visitors ultimately owed much to an impish career-best score from Graham Kersey as they just avoided the possibility of following on.

Much has changed here recently: gone are the football stands and pitch producing a more open expanse primed for development, the eyesores confined to history. Phil Neale, too, has moved on anticipating prosperity at Edgbaston — would it not be ironic if Northamptonshire were to win the championship?

The usual copious smattering of grass on the wicket is also absent. The orders of Bill Bailey, the groundsman, are markedly different from those of previous years, as he tries to encourage Kumble to "spin and win".

Surrey took advantage of some uneven bounce and early moisture after from a hailstorm 45 minutes before play, collecting Northamptonshire's last six wickets for the addition of 20 runs in 42 balls. Tony Pigott with six for 91 took the bowling plaudits.

Surrey soon lost Bicknell to one that bounced, and they never totally come to terms with their task. Though Butcher and Thorpe entertained with some imperious shots, Kumble nullified Surrey's much-vaunted middle order. Bowling flat and fast, he allows batsmen little room for adjustment, and his second spell of 21 overs, reaping three for 37, and conceding just one boundary, was a joy to behold.

Larkins relishes new ground for attack

By Pat Gibson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 319 runs behind Warwickshire

OLD cricketers have come and old cricketers have gone during Durham's brief time in the first class game but Wayne Larkins looks like going on for ever. He is 41 now but he is the only player who has matched the setting in the first days at the Riverside Ground.

Sadly, he could not mark the occasion by becoming the first Durham batsman to score a century at their new headquarters but he did the next best thing by warming a chilly north-east evening with some vintage strokes in a characteristic 58.

It showed that stroke-making is not impossible on a pitch which is not quite what the groundsman, Tom Flintoft, had in mind for such an historic match. The bounce has become more and more irregular and Durham must be thankful that Donald, Munton and Small are all missing.

Donald has a broken toe, Munton is still two or three weeks away from returning after a back operation and Small has a groin strain. Dougie Brown, Bell and Smith were not the same proposition and Larkins, never a man to stand on ceremony, had taken 11 boundaries in his 58.

It was still not easy, as Roseberry was at pains to prove, and Durham still had much to do when he pulled a ball into his stumps after labouring through 32 overs for 25. Morris and Daley stayed to the close but they still need 170 to avoid the follow-on.

If they have to do that, it will justify Warwickshire's approach as they ground their way to 424 despite the wholehearted efforts of Simon Brown who deserved better figures than 5-123.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Warwickshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 319 runs behind Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

A J Moles c Larkins b Brown	80
N V Knight c Roseberry b Wood	89
T L Penney lbw b Brown	48
D P Ostler c Ligertwood b Brown	18
R G Twose c Ligertwood b Betts	51
*D A Reeve c Saxelby b Prabhakar	4
D R Brown c Roseberry b Betts	33
P A Smith c Prabhakar b Brown	44
†K J Piper c Morris b Prabhakar	24
R P Davis c Daley b Brown	6
M A V Bell not out	0
Extras (lb 13, nb 4)	17
Total (161.4 overs)	424

Score at 120 overs: 287-5

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-172, 2-223, 3-258, 4-259, 5-270, 6-339, 7-362, 8-403, 9-423

BOWLING: Brown 41-11-123-5; Wood 14-6-25-1; Prabhakar 38.4-13-62-2; Betts 27-6-103-2; Boiling 37-6-86-0; Saxelby 4-0-12-0.

DURHAM: First Innings

*M A Roseberry b Brown	25
W Larkins c Piper b Reeve	58
J E Morris not out	15
J A Daley not out	7
Total (2 wkts, 44 overs)	105

M Prabhakar, M Saxelby, †D G C Ligertwood, J Wood, J Boiling, S J E Brown and M M Betts to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-83

BOWLING: Brown 13-5-33-1; Bell 11-4-23-0; Reeve 11-5-23-1; Smith 5-1-24-0; Twose 4-2-2-0

Bonus points: Durham 2 Warwickshire 2

Hampshire v Kent

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 312 runs to beat Kent

KENT: First Innings 207

Second Innings

T R Ward c Aymes b Bovill	8
*M R Benson lbw b Stephenson	47
N R Taylor c Terry b Udal	87
P A de Silva lbw b Stephenson	0
M J Walker c Stephenson b Bovill	53
M A Ealham c Stephenson b Udal	8
†S C Willis lbw b Udal	1
M M Patel c and b Udal	28
M J McCague b Udal	17
D W Headley c Aymes b Connor	5
A P Igglesden not out	15
Extras (lb 5, nb 14)	19
Total	288

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-80, 3-80, 4-195, 5-208, 6-213, 7-224, 8-257, 9-268.

BOWLING: Connor 13.2-2-42-1; Bovill 15-2-59-2; Streak 14-3-46-0; Udal 19-2-81-5; Stephenson 15-1-55-2

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

V P Terry lbw b McCague	37
R S M Morris c McCague b Ealham	47
G W White c Willis b Headley	0
R A Smith run out	20
C A Connor not out	14
*M C J Nicholas c Patel b McCague	7
J P Stephenson c Willis b McCague	2
†A N Aymes c Willis b Igglesden	1
S D Udal lbw b McCague	1
H H Streak lbw b McCague	1
J N B Bovill c Ealham b Igglesden	1
Extras (b 1, w 1, nb 4)	6
Total (47.2 overs)	137

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-79, 3-103, 4-108, 5-122, 6-128, 7-133, 8-134, 9-136.

BOWLING: McCague 16-4-47-5; Igglesden 11.2-2-40-2; Ealham 10-4-15-1; Headley 10-2-34-1

Second Innings

V P Terry not out	31
R S M Morris not out	11
Extras (lb 1, nb 4)	5
Total (no wkt)	47

BOWLING: McCague 6-2-10-0; Headley 6-1-23-0; Igglesden 2-0-9-0; Patel 2-1-4-0.

Bonus points: Hampshire 4 Kent 5

Leicestershire v Derbyshire

LEICESTER (second day of four): Derbyshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 20 runs ahead of Leicestershire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 258 (J Owen 50; G J Parsons 4 for 55)

Second Innings

*K J Barnett not out	63
C J Adams lbw b Parsons	17
T J G O'Gorman c Whitticase b Parsons	0
C M Wells not out	37
Extras (lb 2, nb 2)	4
Total (2 wkts)	121

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-38.

BOWLING: Millns 1.1-0-15-0; Mullally 9-2-30-0; Wells 3.5-3-12-0; Parsons 10-0-33-2; Pierson 5-1-15-0; Cronje 4-1-14-0.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

*N E Briers c Wells b Cork	32
D L Maddy lbw b Malcolm	2
W J Cronje c DeFreitas b Cork	27
J J Whitaker c Bairstow b Cork	120
V J Wells lbw b DeFreitas	30
B F Smith c sub b Warner	17
G J Parsons b Malcolm	27
†P Whitticase c Bairstow b Cork	51
A R K Pierson b Cork	0
L J Millns not out	8
A D Mullally lbw b DeFreitas	3
Extras (b 9, lb 17, w 4, nb 10)	40
Total (110.1 overs)	357

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-58, 3-73, 4-175, 5-203, 6-244, 7-342, 8-343, 9-344.

BOWLING: Malcolm 24-4-100-2; DeFreitas 25.1-8-64-2; Cork 28-3-74-5; Warner 21-3-57-1; Wells 7-1-13-0; Harrison 7-2-23-0.

Bonus points: Leicestershire 8 Derbyshire 6

Middlesex v Lancashire

LORD'S (second day of four): Middlesex, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 297 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

*M A Atherton c Brown b Nash	54
J E R Gallian c Emburey b Nash	0
J P Crawley c Brown b Nash	55
N H Fairbrother c Nash b Feltham	31
N J Speak c Brown b Johnson	16
G D Lloyd c Ramprakash b Emburey	75
Wasim Akram lbw b Emburey	11
†W K Hegg c Brown b Johnson	20
P J Martin b Emburey	35
G Chapple not out	40
G Yates c Brown b Johnson	21
Extras (b 4, lb 5, nb 8)	17
Total (111.3 overs)	375

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-114, 3-121, 4-155, 5-184, 6-235, 7-258, 8-282, 9-330.

BOWLING: Fraser 24-7-85-0; Nash 23-4-85-3; Johnson 22.3-3-67-3; Feltham 17-3-62-1; Weekes 8-2-16-0; Emburey 17-5-51-3.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

*M W Gatting lbw b Wasim	3
J C Pooley b Chapple	7
M R Ramprakash c Atherton b Wasim	0
J D Carr lbw b Wasim	8
P N Weekes b Martin	27
†K R Brown not out	10
D J Nash c Yates b Gallian	15
R L Johnson b Wasim	1
Extras (lb 5, nb 2)	7
Total (7 wkts, 46.2 overs)	78

J E Emburey, M A Feltham and A R C Fraser to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-6, 3-18, 4-34, 5-51, 6-77, 7-78

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 16.2-2-30-4; Martin 16-9-10-1; Chapple 8-4-14-1; Gallian 7-2-19-1.

Bonus points: Middlesex 4 Lancashire 7

Northamptonshire v Surrey

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Surrey, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 142 runs behind Northamptonshire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

†R J Warren c Kersey b Pigott	39
A Fordham c Kersey b Benjamin	8
R J Bailey c Kersey b Kenlock	23
T C Walton lbw b Pigott	5
*A J Lamb lbw b Pigott	166
K M Curran c Butcher b Pigott	117
D J Capel c Kenlock b Pigott	2
A L Penberthy c Stewart b Benjamin	1
A Kumble c Stewart b Pigott	2
C S Atkins b Benjamin	5
J P Taylor not out	4
Extras (b 4, lb 11, w 2, nb 14)	31
Total (121.3 overs)	403

Score at 120 overs: 394-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-80, 3-86, 4-101, 5-383, 6-391, 7-392, 8-392, 9-397.

BOWLING: Benjamin 24.3-2-79-3; Pigott 31-7-91-6; Kenlock 16-0-67-1; Butcher 16-4-53-0; Nowell 21-3-62-0; Hollioake 13-1-36-0.

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell c Capel b Taylor	0
*A J Stewart b Capel	9
M A Butcher c Curran b Atkins	52
G P Thorpe c Curran b Kumble	42
A D Brown b Penberthy	7
A J Hollioake lbw b Kumble	47
†G J Kersey lbw b Kumble	64
A C S Pigott c Fordham b Kumble	5
R W Nowell c Taylor b Penberthy	9
J E Benjamin not out	3
S G Kenlock not out	10
Extras (lb 11, nb 2)	13
Total (9 wkts, 92 overs)	261

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-14, 3-86, 4-101, 5-142, 6-178, 7-194, 8-248, 9-250.

BOWLING: Taylor 17-4-51-1; Capel 5-2-22-1; Kumble 30-12-47-4; Bailey 2-2-0-0; Penberthy 15-1-56-2; Curran 12-4-28-0; Atkins 11-4-46-1

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 8 Surrey 5

Sussex v Essex

HOVE (second day of four). Sussex, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 310 runs ahead of Essex

SUSSEX: First Innings 326 (P Moores 86, K Greenfield 51, M C Ilott 7 for 82)

Second Innings

C W J Athey b Ilott	21
J W Hall b Ilott	15
K Newell c Waugh b Irani	10
*A P Wells b Childs	69
K Greenfield not out	25
†P Moores not out	23
Extras (lb 1, nb 4)	5
Total (4 wkts)	169

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-42, 3-49, 4-137.

BOWLING: Ilott 13-3-25-2; Cousins 9-1-31-0; Such 14-2-41-0; Irani 8-0-36-1; Waugh 4-0-19-0; Childs 10-3-16-1.

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch lbw b Lewry	1
*P J Prichard c Salisbury b Stephenson	4
M E Waugh lbw b Giddins	27
N Hussain c Moores b Giddins	26
J J B Lewis lbw b Giddins	21
R C Irani not out	57
†R J Rollins lbw b Giddins	5
M C Ilott lbw b Salisbury	17
P M Such b Stephenson	8
D M Cousins c and b Salisbury	5
J H Childs c Salisbury b Giddins	2
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 1, nb 6)	12
Total (65.1 overs)	185

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-7, 3-50, 4-79, 5-88, 6-100, 7-139, 8-164, 9-177

BOWLING: Stephenson 23-6-66-2; Lewry 6-1-21-1; Salisbury 13-5-23-2; Giddins 13.1-2-48-5; Newell 10-3-22-0.

Bonus points: Sussex 7 Essex 4

Yorkshire v Glamorgan

BRADFORD (second day of four): Yorkshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, require 87 runs to beat Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 135

Second Innings

S P James lbw b Hartley	28
*H Morris c Gough b Hartley	4
D L Hemp c Blakey b Hartley	25
M P Maynard c Bevan b Hartley	19
P A Cottey lbw b Robinson	51
A Dale c Blakey b Hartley	0
R D B Croft c Bevan b Hartley	4
H A G Anthony c Blakey b Gough	37
R P Lefebvre run out	24
†C P Metson c Bevan b Robinson	2
S L Watkin not out	10
Extras (b 5, lb 3)	8
Total	212

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-52, 3-70, 4-83, 5-85, 6-101, 7-149, 8-186, 9-198.

BOWLING: Gough 11-1-44-1; Hartley 18-3-64-6; White 7-0-35-0; Robinson 11.5-2-40-2; Stemp 8-6-13-0, Vaughan 3-1-8-0.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

A McGrath c Maynard b Watkin	0
M P Vaughan c James b Watkin	74
*D Byas c Hemp b Watkin	45
M G Bevan c Metson b Croft	22
R D Stemp c Morris b Dale	8
C White b Dale	0
†R J Blakey c Cottey b Watkin	4
A P Grayson c Maynard b Watkin	6
D Gough c Maynard b Anthony	8
P J Hartley not out	10
M A Robinson c Watkin b Watkin	7
Extras (lb 5)	5
Total (68 overs)	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-96, 3-142, 4-142, 5-142, 6-155, 7-163, 8-168, 9-172.

BOWLING: Watkin 23-6-55-6; Anthony 16-4-49-1; Dale 13-3-38-2; Lefebvre 12-4-34-0; Croft 4-2-6-1.

Second Innings

A McGrath c Cottey b Croft	35
M P Vaughan lbw b Watkin	3
*D Byas not out	26
M G Bevan not out	6
Extras (lb 2)	2
Total (2 wkts)	72

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-29, 2-61.

BOWLING: Watkin 7-1-29-1; Anthony 6-0-24-0; Lefebvre 10-5-9-0; Croft 6-1-8-1

Bonus points: Yorkshire 4 Glamorgan 4

University match

Oxford University v Nottinghamshire

THE PARKS (second day of three): Nottinghamshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are 57 runs ahead of Oxford University

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 303 for 6 dec (G W Mike 66 not out, C Banton 63, J E Hindson 53 not out)

Second Innings

M P Dowman not out	21
*W M Noon not out	11
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (no wkt)	34

BOWLING: MacRobert 6-2-13-0; Mather 6-1-12-0; Malik 2-1-1-0; MacMillan 2-0-7-0; Sutcliffe 1-0-1-0.

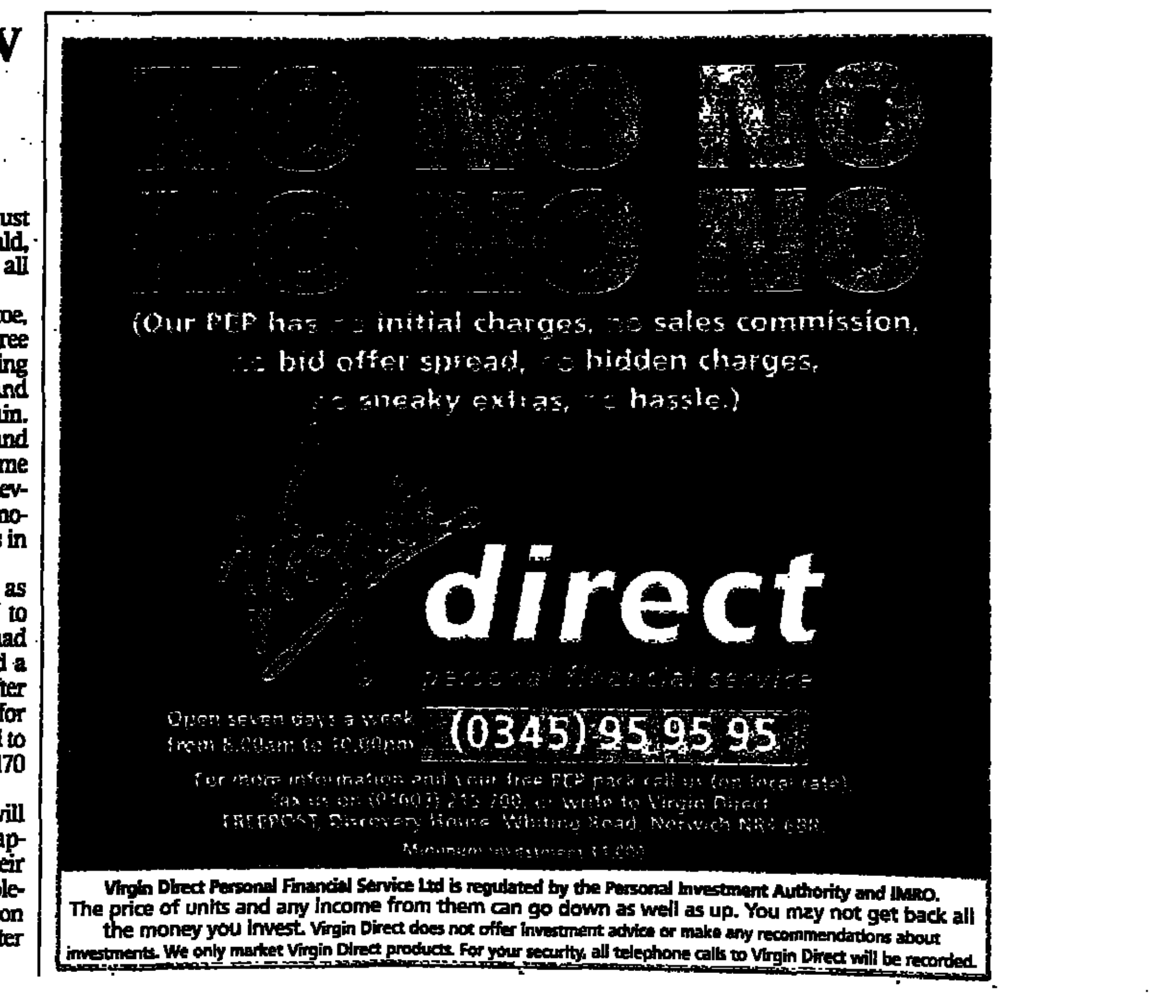
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings

C M Gupte c Banton b Mike	44
I J Sutcliffe b Hindson	39
A C Ridley c Chapman b Pennett	71
W S Kendall c Walker b Mike	74
J M Attfield not out	23
H S Malik b Hindson	5
Extras (b 1, lb 9, nb 14)	24
Total (5 wkts dec, 80 overs)	280

*G I MacMillan, †M E D Jarrett, A D MacRobert, J D Ricketts and D P Mather did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-90, 2-96, 3-222, 4-263, 5-280

BOWLING: Pennett 13-1-69-1; Chapman 12-1-47-0; Mike 12-1-32-2; Hindson 25-6-70-2; Reid-Buss 12-2-49-0; Wileman 6-3-3-0.



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Spectrum gets a confident vote

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

BRITISH trainers, Peter Chapple-Hyam and John Dunlop, look set to dominate tomorrow's First National Building Society Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh and **Spectrum** gets a confident vote to give Chapple-Hyam his second successive success in the race.

Both trainers are doubly represented in the first Irish classic of the season with Dunlop's Newmarket Guineas third, Bahri, looking the main Arundel hope ahead of his stablemate Nwaamis, who was fifth at Newmarket. Supporters of Pennekamp and Celtic Swing will be anxious for the English Guineas form to be boosted but both Dunlop's colts could be found wanting for stamina tomorrow.

Bahri, in particular, looks vulnerable and does not appeal as a short-priced favourite. Willie Carson was anxious about his staying power before Newmarket and while Bahri ran well, he wasn't troubling the leaders near the finish.

It was fast ground at Newmarket and although ground conditions will be similar tomorrow, a more important consideration looks to be the stiff Curragh mile which will stretch Bahri to the limit.

In contrast, the progressive and unbeaten Spectrum should relish every yard of the trip. A leading Derby fancy, Spectrum is a different type of colt to Chapple-Hyam's Turtle Island — who ran away with last year's Guineas — but he will still be a formidable opponent.

John Reid's mount hacked up from Sanoosea at Sandown last month and the form was boosted when Sanoosea ran Pentire close in Chester's Dee Stakes.

However it was the manner of Spectrum's success that impressed at Sandown, the Manton colt quickening clear in a matter of strides to win by a length and a half.

That was the same margin that Spectrum's stable companion, Prince Arthur, beat Thomire in the Italian 2,000 Guineas in Rome but Spectrum appeals as a more classy horse.

It's hard to say the same about the home team. The best of them looks to be the Charles O'Brien-trained Burden Of Proof who should improve for his seasonal debut behind Desert Style in the Tetrarch Stakes.

Four of the eight runners in the group two Tattersalls Gold Cup are British-trained. Prince Of Andros, Just Happy, the champion hurdler Alderbrook and the evergreen Environment Friend, form a strong team but they could find John Oxx's **Akhiyar** difficult to handle.

Winner of his only race as a two-year-old, Akhiyar missed all last season and reappeared only eight days ago to win a listed race by a neck. He encountered problems getting a run then, should improve significantly from that and can justify Oxx's high opinion of him.

Alzianah, trained by James Bethell, and Mark Johnston's Loveyoumillions run in the group three Greenlands Stakes but **Nautical Pet** can win for Dermot Weld.

Lost career, page 9

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: KNAVE'S ASH
(3.45 Thirsk)
Next best: Ihtiram
(3.15 Thirsk)
Tomorrow
Nap: HOLTYE
(4.30 Newbury)
Next best: Smuggling
(5.00 Newbury)

Bahri's stamina will be tested to the full in the Irish 2,000 Guineas tomorrow

THE CURRAGH TOMORROW

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE BBC2

3.45 FIRST NATIONAL BUILD SOCIETY IRISH 2,000 GUINEAS (Group I: 3-Y-O: Ir£180,700: 1m) (9 runners)

1 (2) 1-1 ADJARELI (H Aga Khan) J Oxx 9-0 J P Murtagh
2 (8) 1-23 BAHRI (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) J Dunlop (GB) 9-0 W Carson
3 (7) 11-3 BURDEN OF PROOF (M O'Brien) C O'Brien 9-0 C Roche
4 (3) 12 CELLADONIA (D Dobson) J Bolger 9-0 K J Manning
5 (1) 31-1420 I'M SUPPOSIN (A Brennan) K Prendergast 9-0 S Craine
6 (9) 1-35 NWAAMIS (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop (GB) 9-0 M J Kinane
7 (4) 1-2 OSCAR SCHINDLER (O Lehane) Kevin Prendergast 9-0 W J Supple
8 (5) 0-21 PRINCE ARTHUR (M Tabor) P Chapple-Hyam (GB) 9-0 Pat Eddery
9 (6) 1-1 SPECTRUM (Lord Weinstock) P W Chapple-Hyam (GB) 9-0 J Reid

BETTING: 6-4 Bahri, 4-1 Spectrum, 5-1 Nwaamis, 7-1 Prince Arthur, 8-1 Adjareli, 10-1 Oscar Schindler, 12-1 Burden Of Proof

ADJARELI beat OSCAR SCHINDLER 3½l in 5-runner listed race at Leopardstown (1m, good). BAHRI head and 2l 3rd of 11 to Pennekamp in 2000 Guineas at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with NWAAMIS 2¾l 5th. BURDEN OF PROOF head and short-head 3rd of 8 to Desert Style in group III Lexus Tetrach Stakes here (7f, good to yielding). CELLADONIA (later promoted to 1st) 1l 2nd of 9 to Sharatan in conditions race at Gowran Park (1m 1f, good). Previously beat Amrah 4l in 12-runner maiden at Naas (6f, soft). PRINCE ARTHUR beat Thomire 1½l in 14-runner Italian 2,000 Guineas at Capannelle (1m, good). SPECTRUM beat Sanoosea 1½l in 5-runner conditions race at Sandown (1m, good).
Selection: BAHRI

Curling can register record tally

Point-to-point
by Brian Beel

POLLY CURLING, with five rides for Richard Barber at Bratton Down today and four more tomorrow at Mollington, has an outstanding chance of topping Philip Scholfield's all-time high of 37 winners in a season this weekend. Last Saturday, at Holnicote she equalled her woman's record of 35, achieved last year.

Desert Waltz goes in the Dulverton West confined and either Cherrynut or Fosbury in the ladies'. Earl Boon will be difficult to beat in the PPOA while Marion's Own and Church Ryde look to have winning chances in divisions of the maiden.

Tomorrow at the Bicester, Claire-De-Lune's form figures of UFU do not inspire confidence but Steel Guest should go well in the intermediate.

Entries close this morning for next Friday's Land Rover final at Towcester so it is unusual that tomorrow's open at this meeting should be a qualifier. However, Jockey Club dispensation will allow the entry fee for the final to be refunded to any of tomorrow's runners which fails to qualify.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: College Valley and North Northumberland, Alnwick, 3 miles east of town (first race 2.00); Dulverton West, Bratton Down 10m N of South Molton (2.00); Ystrad, Bassalegg, 2m W of Newport (4.00) TOMORROW: Bicester, Mollington, 5m N of Banbury (2.30); Thames Valley Hunts Club, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershot (2.30).

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Bath (first race, 2.15), Edinburgh (6.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.30), Warwick (6.15)
TUESDAY: Beverley (2.25), Goodwood (BBC, 2.10).
WEDNESDAY: Goodwood (BBC, 2.10), Newcastle (6.30), Salisbury (6.15), Worcester (2.25).
THURSDAY: Goodwood (2.10), Newcastle (2.25), Exeter (6.15), Uttoxeter (6.30).
FRIDAY: Brighton (2.10), Haydock Park (2.00), Nottingham (2.20), Pontefract (6.45), Towcester (6.25).
SATURDAY: Doncaster (C4, 2.20), Haydock Park (BBC, 2.00), Kempton Park (C4, 2.10), Lingfield Park (AW and turf, 6.10), Warwick (6.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00), Cartmel (2.00), Hexham (2.15).
Flat meetings in bold

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NEWBURY	101	201	301
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LINGFIELD	105	205	305
HAMILTON	106	206	306
FAKENHAM	107	207	307
NAVAN	120	220	320

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NEWBURY

THUNDERER
2.00 Yamuna
2.30 Hardy Dancer
3.00 Sadler's Image
3.30 FOREST CAT (nap)
4.00 United Force
4.30 Humbert's Landing
5.00 Mountains Of Mist

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 SADLER'S IMAGE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Yamuna. 2.30 High Standard. 3.00 SADLER'S IMAGE (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: HIGH BEST UP TO 1M SIS

2.00 HATHERDEN MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,808: 6f 8yd) (12 runners)

101 (7) AMAZING BAY (J Smith) I Balding 8-11 L Dettori –
102 (4) BE MY BIRD (A Reed) B Meehan 8-11 M Fenton –
103 (1) MOUNTAIN VALLEY (C Wright) P Cole 8-11 C Rutter –
104 (3) MYRTLE (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 8-11 Dane O'Neill (7) –
105 (11) OCEAN GROVE (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 J Reid –
106 (9) PARIS JOELLE (R Brehaut) M Channon 8-11 P P Murphy (5) –
107 (12) 5 RUMBA RHYTHM 13 (Mrs S Robins) J Hills 8-11 R Hills 90
108 (6) WATCH ME (Salem Suhail) R Hannon 8-11 W R Swinburn –
109 (8) 4 WHISPERING DAWN 16 (W Ponsonby) M Channon 8-11 R Hughes 83
110 (5) 5 WHITE WHISPERS 22 (R Richards) B Hills 8-11 D Harrison [illegible]
111 (10) YAMUNA (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-11 Pat Eddery –
112 (2) ZELAYA (Ali Saeed) C Brittain 8-11 B Doyle –

BETTING: 5-2 Yamuna, 7-2 Ocean Grove, 6-1 White Whispers, 7-1 Mountain Valley, Amazing Bay, 8-1 Myrtle, Watch Me, 10-1 others.

1994: GINGER TREE 8-11 J Reid (11-4 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

AMAZING BAY (foaled Feb 7, cost 26,000gns). Half-sister by Mazilier to Smart Pet, dual 5f juvenile winner; dam, half-sister to dam of champion sprinter Lochsong, 7f winner at three years. RUMBA RHYTHM about 10¼l 5th of 6 to Oriolan in conditions race at Salisbury (5f, good to firm). WATCH ME (Jan 29, 125,000gns). Half-sister by Green Desert to juvenile winner in Italy and minor winner in North America; dam won 6 races over 5f-1m here and in North America, including in Grade 2 company. WHISPERING DAWN 6¼l 4th of 9 to Malka in auction maiden at Hamilton (5f, good). WHITE WHISPERS 4¼l 5th of 12 to Flying Squaw in auction maiden at Sandown (5f, good). YAMUNA (Jan 1). Half-sister by Forty Niner to smart sprinter Forest Gazelle and high-class staying juvenile Eltish, dam, sister to Grade I 5f juvenile winner Contredance who went on to be multiple winner at three and four years in North America.
Selection: WHITE WHISPERS

2.30 LONDON GOLD CUP RATED HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £7,997: 1m 4f 5yd) (7 runners)

201 (2) 1-46 GREY SHOT 28 (S) (J Smith) I Balding 9-7 L Dettori 95
202 (3) 00-64 KORAMBI 14 (B Vosk) C Brittain 9-5 B Doyle [illegible]
203 (7) 0314-0 TIME FOR ACTION 10 (G) (Mrs G Smith) M Tompkins 9-5 P Robinson 86
204 (6) 13-56 LANCER 7 (F) (B Maguire) M Bell 9-4 M Fenton 92
205 (5) 0301-11 HARDY DANCER 12 (F) (K Higson) G L Moore 9-2 B Rouse 95
206 (1) 356-163 VIN ST KOOLA 21 (G) (D Cooper) H Collingridge 9-0 M Rimmer 90
207 (4) 014- HIGH STANDARD 213 (S) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 8-10 W R Swinburn 90

BETTING: 2-1 Hardy Dancer, 4-1 High Standard, 9-2 Grey Shot, 6-1 Korambi, 13-2 Vin St Koola, 7-1 Lancer, 10-1 Time For Action.

1994: SILVER WEDGE 8-7 M Hills (8-1) G Lewis 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

GREY SHOT 6½l 4th of 7 to Torrential in conditions race at Ripon (1m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start, with LANCER (3lb better off) neck 5th. KORAMBI 8l last of 4 to Tamure in conditions race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm). TIME FOR ACTION about 6¼l 4th of 5 to Al Widyan in conditions race at Pontefract (1m, good to soft) on penultimate start. Sep 1994. HARDY DANCER completed double beat Mihnz 1¼l in 9-runner handicap at Kempton (1m 1f, good to firm) VIN ST KOOLA 6l and neck last of 3 to Muzaga in handicap at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm). HIGH STANDARD beat Stuning High neck in 11-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, soft) on penultimate start. Sep 1994.
Selection: GREY SHOT

3.00 QUANTEL ASTON PARK STAKES (Listed race: £13,160: 1m 5f 61yd) (8 runners)

301 (1) 1/110-54 LINNEY HEAD 9 (G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-4 L Dettori 91
302 (5) 526-451 ALRIFFA 7 (F,S) (Sheikh Essa Bin Mubarak) R Hannon 4-8-1 R Hughes 95
303 (8) 1151-44 CASTLE COURAGEOUS 12 (BF,CD,F,G,S) Lady Herries 8-9-1 T Ives 92
304 (6) 310114- SADLER'S IMAGE 210 (BF,D,F,G,S) M Stoute 4-9-1 W R Swinburn [illegible]
305 (7) 16/5516- BLAAZING JOE 339 (F,G) (Mrs L Gardiner) P Cole 4-8-12 C Rutter 82
306 (2) 112/-05 ESCARPMENT 17 (F,S) (Godolphin) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-12 J Reid 92
307 (3) 3663-62 LINPAC WEST 26 (C,G,S) (Ms K Jansen) W Elsey 9-8-12 R Hills 89
308 (4) 1/5 NAWAR 12 (S) (T Long) J Jenkins 5-8-12 D Biggs 73

BETTING: 3-1 Alriffa, 7-2 Sadler's Image, 9-2 Castle Courageous, 5-1 Linney Head, Escarpment, 7-1 Linpac West, 8-1 Blaazing Joe, 100-1 Nawar.

1994: RIGHT WIN 4-9-6 Pat Eddery (11-10 fav) R Hannon 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

LINNEY HEAD about 4¾l 5th of 10 to Strategic Choice in group III Lanes End John Porter Stakes at Newbury (1m 4f, good) on penultimate start, with ESCARPMENT (3lb better off) about 6¼l 9th. ALRIFFA beat English Invader 5l in conditions race at Bath (1m 3f 144yd, firm). CASTLE COURAGEOUS about 2¼l 4th of 7 to Cuff Link in conditions race at Kempton (1m 6f 92yd, good to firm) with NAWAR (7lb worse off) 11l 6th. SADLER'S IMAGE beat Strategic Choice neck in 9-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. BLAAZING JOE beat Muwafik 6l in conditions race at York (1m 6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. ESCARPMENT about 6l 5th of 9 to Double Trigger in group III Sagaro Stakes at Ascot (2m, good to firm). LINPAC WEST 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Khamaseen in conditions race at Nottingham (1m 6f, good) with CASTLE COURAGEOUS (5lb better off) head and 2¼l 4th.
Selection: ALRIFFA

3.30 HEADLEY FILLIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,133: 7f 64yd) (15 runners)

401 (7) 41- FOREST CAT 227 (S) (G Ward) Mrs J Cecil 9-7 J Reid 85
402 (3) 13- GREEN SEED 284 (F) (Mana Al Maktoum) J Fanshawe 9-7 W R Swinburn 85
403 (14) 0224-1 ROSEBUD 25 (G) (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 9-7 Dane O'Neill (7) 95
404 (8) 520-2 HAGWAH 21 (Abdallah Ali) B Hanbury 9-4 T Ives 95
405 (1) 036-065 FANTASY RACING 11 (S) (Aldridge Racing Ltd) M Channon 9-3 R Hughes 98
406 (9) 5255- LA GRAN SENORITA 203 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-2 Pat Eddery 85
407 (13) 2104-05 A MILLION TO ONE 30 (G) (Mrs E Harris) M Bell 9-1 M Fenton 89
408 (15) 063-4 AOIFE ALAINN 25 (G Freyne) J Hills 8-13 R Hills 80
409 (6) 10040-0 RUPIANA 17 (D,F) (Mrs M Keogh) J Arnold 8-9 L Dettori 98
410 (4) 01- MOODY 229 (S) (A Al-Radi) Miss G Kelleway 8-8 P Robinson 85
411 (2) 040- GYPSY LOVE 228 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-5 R Havlin (7) 89
412 (10) 64000- PRINCESS DANIELLE 267 (Mrs M Wickham) C Elsey 8-3 D Harrison 80
413 (5) 0-3002 FAIRELAINE 12 (M Booth) A Jarvis 8-2 T Sprake 94
414 (12) 000 ROOKERY GIRL 24 (N Lunn) D Morris 8-1 R Price [illegible]
415 (11) 34041-5 TARA COLLEEN 137 (D,G) (Friary Bloodstock Co) C Horgan 7-13 N Adams 91

BETTING: 4-1 Hagwah, 5-1 Forest Cat, 11-2 Rosebud, 6-1 Green Seed, Fairelaine, 8-1 A Million To One, 9-1 Moody, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

FOREST CAT beat Brandon Express 4l in 7-runner maider at York (6f, soft). GREEN SEED 2l and neck 3rd of 5 to La Contessa in conditions race at Yarmouth (7f, good).
ROSEBUD beat Intiaash ½l in 10-runner maiden at Pontefract (6f, good). HAGWAH neck 2nd of 12 to Godwin in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm). FANTASY RACING about 3½l 6th of 12 to Charming In in handicap at Pontefract (6f, firm) on penultimate start. LA GRAN SENORITA about 1½l 5th of 19 to Queen's Ransom in maiden at Chepstow (7f, good) on penultimate start, Oct 1994.
A MILLION TO ONE 7¼l 5th of 9 to Cheyenne Spirit in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). FAIRELAINE 1¾l 2nd of 11 to Maiandros in handicap at Warwick (7f, firm).
Selection: HAGWAH

4.00 FRANK OSGOOD 80TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,899: 1m 2f) 12 runners)

501 (3) 325-2 ARTFUL DANE 16 (BF) (S Lansdown) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0 Pat Eddery 87
502 (9) BLUE AND ROYAL (J Lazzari) R Hannon 9-0 R Perham –
503 (11) CANTE CHICO (Sheikh Marwan Al Maktoum) T Thomson Jones 9-0 S Whitworth –
504 (5) 4233- DANJING 236 (BF) (Mrs L Gardiner) P Cole 9-0 C Rutter [illegible]
505 (8) 06 HEATH ROBINSON 11 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 L Dettori 97
506 (7) 00-0 LITTLE SHEFFORD 18 (J Liddiard) D ffrench Davis 9-0 D Harrison –
507 (4) LUCKY QUEST (T Chadney) N Graham 9-0 J Williams –
508 (6) 0 NIKNAKS NEPHEW 13 (J Blackshaw) Miss A Whitfield 9-0 R Painter (5) –
509 (2) 0- STAROFGREATINTENT 231 (M Tse) J Eustace 9-0 R Hughes –
510 (12) 0 STORMAWAY 33 (R Misservitle) T Mills 9-0 G Carter 84
511 (1) 4-0 UNITED FORCE 29 (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J Reid –
512 (10) WOODCREST (Major M Wyatt) H Candy 8-9 W Newnes –

BETTING: 3-1 Danjing, 9-2 Artful Dane, 5-1 Blue And Royal, 6-1 Cante Chico, United Force, 8-1 Woodcrest, Stormaway, 12-1 others.

1994: STRATEGIC CHOICE 9-0 T Quinn (4-7 fav) P Cole 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

ARTFUL DANE 2½l 2nd of 11 to Yam in maiden at Salisbury (1m, good to firm). DANJING 3½l 3rd of 4 to Great Crusader in maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good). HEATH ROBINSON about 10l 6th of 11 to Royal Solo in Chester maiden (1m 2f 75yd, good to firm).
LITTLE SHEFFORD 18l 9th of 14 to Endowment in Bath maiden (1m 2f, good). NIKNAKS NEPHEW 18l 8th of 12 to Istidaad in maiden at Salisbury (1m 4f, good to firm). STAROFGREATINTENT 20l 12th of 18 to Maiandros in Wolverhampton maiden (AW, 6f).
STORMAWAY 11l 9th of 21 to Minds Music in maiden at Kempton (1m 2f, good to firm).
UNITED FORCE about 3¼l 4th of 8 to Prince Of India in Goodwood maiden (6f, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: DANJING (nap)

4.30 WINCHESTER HANDICAP (£6,076: 6f 8yd) (18 runners)

601 (16) 1311U2- SEA-DEER 239 (BF,C,D,F,G,S) (F Cook) L Holt 6-10-0 A McGlone 94
602 (18) 2/5113-4 HUMBERT'S LANDING 28 (D,F,G) P Cole 4-10-0 David O'Neill (7) 91
603 (6) 23150-0 MASTER OF PASSION 14 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs M Kwee) J Eustace 6-9-8 J Tate (3) 90
604 (15) 00200-0 LAW COMMISSION 17 (F) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 5-9-6 Pat Eddery 86
605 (7) 15023-0 TSHUSICK 45 (F) (Bottisham Heath Stud) J Fanshawe 4-9-4 D Harrison 88
606 (14) 3325-00 BE WARNED 14 (D,F,G) (Midcourts) N Callaghan 4-9-4 W R Swinburn 94
607 (13) 08040-4 BAROSSA VALLEY 9 (CD,G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 4-9-2 J Reid 97
608 (2) 352260 LEIGH CROFTER 22 (B,CD,F,G,S) (P Dimmock) P Cundell 6-8-11 W Newnes 96
609 (5) 01124-0 KING RAT 19 (D,F,G) (P Daniels) T Etherington 4-8-10 T Ives [illegible]
610 (11) 034-080 CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 33 (D,G,S) (Grandy Girls) M Channon 5-8-8 R Hughes 95
611 (17) 1/204-10 TEETOTALLER 14 (D,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 4-8-7 J Williams 94
612 (12) 0/303-50 JOBIE 14 (D,G) (J Redmond) B Hills 5-8-7 J D Smith (5) 97
613 (1) 24000-1 THATCHERELLA 16 (D,F,G) (J Widdows) D Chappell 4-8-6 L Dettori 94
614 (9) 080-031 COLWAY RAKE 16 (B,D,G,S) (R Coleman) J Watts 4-8-5 N Connorton 95
615 (4) 5465-05 FACE THE FUTURE 16 (D,S) (Future Prospectors) L Holt 6-8-2 Iona Wands (7) 91
616 (8) 360-000 BAYIN 17 (D,F,G,S) (T Barker) M Usher 6-8-2 R Street 97
617 (10) 31050-0 SLIVOVITZ 16 (V,D,F,G) (The Racing Club) M Heaton-Ellis 5-8-0 N Adams 92
618 (3) 000-456 JIGSAW BOY 21 (D,F,S) (All Eight Club) P Murphy 6-8-0 G Carter 96

BETTING: 5-1 Humbert's Landing, 6-1 Barossa Valley, 7-1 Colway Rake, Sea-Deer, 8-1 Thatcherella, 10-1 Jobie, 14-1 others

1994: LEIGH CROFTER 5-8-8 D Griffiths (12-1) P Cundell 24 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEA-DEER 1l 2nd of 12 to Gorinsky in handicap at Ascot (5f, good). HUMBERT'S LANDING about 3l 4th of 14 to Royale Figurine in handicap here (good to firm) BAROSSA VALLEY 3l 4th of 9 to Ashtina in handicap at Chester (5f, good to firm). LEIGH CROFTER best recent effort 2l 2nd of 7 to Bella Parkes in handicap at Southwell (AW, 6f). KING RAT 7l last of 13 to Castlerea Lad in handicap at Pontefract (6f, firm). JOBIE 6l 7th of 21 to Saseedo in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to firm) with BE WARNED (1lb better off) 2¾l 13th, MASTER OF PASSION (1lb worse off) 1l 16th and TEETOTALLER 2¾l 20th. THATCHERELLA beat Davalib short-head in 18-runner handicap at Salisbury (6f, good to firm) with FACE THE FUTURE (11lb better off) 6¾l 5th and SLIVOVITZ (9lb better off) 18l 17th
Selection: SEA-DEER

5.00 FRANK OSGOOD 80TH BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES (Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,899: 1m 2f) (11 runners)

1 (1) 0 DICK CHRISTIAN 18 (N Rimmington) B Meehan 9-0 B Doyle –
2 (4) 0- DR ZHIVAGO 219 (A Leftwich) M Jarvis 9-0 P Robinson –
3 (7) HARBOUR ISLAND (R Barnett) M Stoute 9-0 J Tate (3) –
4 (3) INDICATOR (Cheveley Park Stud) R Hannon 9-0 W R Swinburn –
5 (11) 0 REMAADI SUN 21 (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0 R Hills –
6 (5) 5 TIBETAN 24 (Lady Herries) Lady Herries 9-0 T Ives –
7 (10) 6 WURLITZER 21 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 G Hind –
8 (2) 0 EASTER COUL 29 (C Pearman) M Fetherston-Godley 8-9 F Norton –
9 (6) MOUNTAINS OF MIST (S Niarchos) R Charlton 8-9 Pat Eddery –
10 (8) SYRIAN QUEEN (Wafic Said) H Cecil 8-9 A McGlone –
11 (9) TORREGLIA (C Humphris) J Dunlop 8-9 G Duffield –

BETTING: 3-1 Harbour Island, Syrian Queen, 9-2 Mountains Of Mist, 5-1 Torreglia, Indicator, 8-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

DICK CHRISTIAN 53l 13th of 14 to Endowment in maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good). DR ZHIVAGO 12l 10th of 26 to Vettori in maiden at Newmarket (1m, good) HARBOUR ISLAND. Half-brother by Rainbow Quest to several winners, including juvenile 1m winner Known Line and stayer Coleridge: dam a very useful stayer. INDICATOR. Second foal, dam won over 7f-1m 1f. REMAADI SUN 19l 12th of 13 to In Camera in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, good to firm). TIBETAN 12½l 5th of 23 to Riyadian in maiden at Kempton (1m 2f, good) WURLITZER 15¼l 6th of 11 to Masterfinck in maiden at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm). EASTER COUL 17l 14th of 19 to Tarhhib in maiden at Newbury (7f, good to firm). MOUNTAINS OF MIST. Half-sister by Shirley Heights to useful middle-distance performers Circle Of Chalk and From Beyond; dam won over 5f-1m. SYRIAN QUEEN. Half-sister by Slip Anchor to Kerrera, smart juvenile and runner-up in 1,000 Guineas, dam won over 6f-1m 2f. TORREGLIA. Half-sister by Elmaamul to three winners including Cambridgeshire winner Halling; dam won over 7f-1m 2f. EASTER COUL 17l 14th of 19 to Tarhhib in maiden at Newbury (7f, good to firm).
Selection: SYRIAN QUEEN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	30	98	30.6	Pat Eddery	42	240	17.5
J Gosden	27	118	22.9	L Dettori	32	191	16.8
L Cumani	12	53	22.6	J Reid	34	216	15.7
Lady Herries	6	30	20.0	D Harrison	11	82	13.4
H Cecil	15	76	19.7	W R Swinburn	19	149	12.8
G Lewis	10	64	15.6	R Hills	6	56	10.7

BLINKERED FIRST TIME TOMORROW: Newbury: 2.00 Satey Ana. 4.30 Moments Of Fortune. Ripon: 2.15 Euro Express.

THIRSK

THUNDERER
2.15 Prince Of Florence. 2.45 Arvzees. 3.15 Ihtiram. 3.45 Celestial Key 4.15 Night Wink. 4.45 Double Quick. 5.15 Flame War.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CARLTON MINIOTT MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,720: 5f) (10 runners)

1 (4) CLASSIC VICTORY S Williams 9-0 A Mackay –
2 (6) 3 FIRST FIDDLER 21 W Jarvis 9-0 M Tebbutt [illegible]
3 (5) 0 MELS BABY 12 J Eyre 9-0 R Lappin –
4 (10) 5 MOONCUSSER 30 J Fitzgerald 9-0 K Fallon 74
5 (2) PRINCE OF FLORENCE L Cumani 9-0 J Weaver –
6 (7) CHAMBER MUSIC J Berry 8-9 J Carroll –
7 (3) 4 ECCENTRIC DANCER 14 M Bielby 8-9 A Culhane 82
8 (8) 4 ELMSWOOD 11 P Chapple-Hyam 8-9 B Thomson 89
9 (1) SWEET ROBIN M Johnston 8-9 D Holland –
10 (9) VICTORIA SIOUX J Wharton 8-9 K Darley –

5-2 Prince Of Florence, 3-1 First Fiddler, 4-1 Elmswood, 5-1 Sweet Robin, 6-1 Chamber Music, 14-1 Classic Victory, 16-1 Mooncusser, 20-1 others.

2.45 SKIPTON CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,846: 5f) (7)

1 (6) 4 NEVER THINK TWICE 43 K Ivory 8-13 J Weaver –
2 (4) 30 PATRINGTON PARK 12 M W Easterby 8-11 G Parkin (7) 98
3 (3) 3211 ARVZEES 11 (D,F) M Channon 8-9 K Darley 98
4 (5) STANDOWN J Berry 8-7 J Carroll –
5 (2) 610 JUST LADY 11 (CD,F) W G M Turner 8-6 P McCabe (5) [illegible]
6 (1) CONTRADICTORY M W Easterby 8-5 L Charnock –
7 (7) CATWALK GIRL S Norton 7-13 A Mackay –

7-4 Arvzees, 4-1 Standown, 9-2 Just Lady, 6-1 Patrington Park, 7-1 Never Think Twice, 8-1 Catwalk Girl, 14-1 Contradictory

3.15 DISHFORTH CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £8,741: 1m) (7)

1 (2) 5-22 IHTIRAM 21 (D,G,S) J Dunlop 9-2 W Carson [illegible]
2 (1) -344 DANCE BAND 11 (G) B Hanbury 8-13 Paul Eddery 93
3 (6) 12 LYRIKOS 12 (BF,D,G) H Cecil 8-13 W Ryan 98
4 (3) 1-4 STEADY READY GO 13 (S) L Cumani 8-13 J Weaver 93
5 (4) 04-0 DOM ONE 17 (F) J Berry 8-10 J Carroll 95
6 (7) 1 QUANGO 19 (D,G) J Fitzgerald 8-10 K Fallon 72
7 (5) 61-5 CRYSTAL CAVERN 17 (G) R Charlton 8-6 K Darley 93

6-4 Ihtiram, 4-1 Lyrikos, 5-1 Steady Ready Go, 6-1 Dance Band, Crystal Cavern, 12-1 Quango, 16-1 Dom One.

3.45 DIBB LUPTON BROOMHEAD CUP (Handicap: £15,010: 7f) (13)

1 (1) 0-05 CELESTIAL KEY 4 (D,F,G) M Johnston 5-9-12 D Holland [illegible]
2 (12) 0-04 KNAVE'S ASH 12 (D,F,G) M Stoute 4-9-11 Paul Eddery 94
3 (6) 5-00 SELHURSTPARK FLYER 14 (E,F,S) J Berry 4-9-7 J Carroll 98
4 (8) 2202 QUEENS CONSUL 14 (F,G) B Rothwell 5-9-1 J Stack (5) 96
5 (11) 040- HI NOD 217 (CD,F,G) M Camacho 5-9-1 L Charnock 94
6 (2) 0044 CELESTIAL CHOIR 14 (B,D,F,G,S) J Eyre 5-8-13 J Fortune 93
7 (7) 30-3 JATO 19 (CD,F,G) S Williams 6-8-12 K Darley 92
8 (5) 0041 PERSIAN AFFAIR 9 (D,F,G) D Hayden Jones 4-8-8 A Mackay 96
9 (4) 0010 PRIDE OF PENDLE 9 (C,D,F,G,S) D Nicholls 5-8-6 Alex Greaves 96
10 (9) 0150 CHINOUR 14 (D,F,G) E Alston 7-8-1 — 97
11 (3) 40-2 SARMATIAN 22J (C,F) M Hammond 4-8-0 Dale Gibson 91
12 (10) 2-03 CRAIGIE BOY 16 (G,S) N Bycroft 5-7-11 T Williams 97
13 (13) 0620 PINE RIDGE LAD 7 (D,F,G) J Eyre 5-7-7 N Varley (5) 92

7-2 Knave's Ash, 5-1 Jato, 6-1 Celestial Choir, 7-1 Pride Of Pendle, Queens Consul, 8-1 Persian Affair, 10-1 others.

4.15 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES (Handicap: 3-Y-O: £7,960: 1m) (17)

1 (5) 0-23 BARREL OF HOPE 14 (G) J Eyre 9-7 J Fortune 87
2 (13) 223- NIGHT WINK 215 (BF) [illegible] 9-5 Paul Eddery 85
3 (3) 0-05 SHIFTING MOON 11 I Balding 9-3 W Ryan 87
4 (4) -144 THE STAGER 12 (F) J Jenkins 9-5 — 86
5 (14) 0-06 DELIGHT OF DAWN 12 (F,G) K Ivory 9-2 J Weaver 84
6 (15) 1-40 KINGS ASSEMBLY 17 (S) P Harris 8-10 R Cochrane 88
7 (6) 4004 RISKY ROMEO 8 (D,G) [illegible] 8-10 B Thomson 91
8 (11) 4510 HIMALAYAN BLUE 18 (G) M Channon 9-9 K Darley 88
9 (7) 1-05 RYMER'S RASCAL 10 (S) E Alston 8-4 — 91
10 (16) 30-0 SHINING EDGE 42 M H Easterby 8-3 S Maloney [illegible]
11 (2) 5031 GOSPEL SONG 9 (B,F) W Kemp 8-1 P McCabe (5) 95
12 (9) 06-6 INTENDANT 15 J Fitzgerald 8-0 D R McCabe (3) 90
13 (10) 0232 THREE ARCH BRIDGE 7 (B,BF,F,G) M Johnston 8-0 T Williams 98
14 (1) 0-46 BOLLIN FRANK 21 M H Easterby 7-13 L Charnock 91
15 (17) 0500 ALLTIME DANCER 12 Mrs J Ramsden 7-11 J Fanning 82
16 (12) 06-5 ANOTHER TIME 12 Miss S Hall 7-10 Dale Gibson 81
17 (8) 4035 PC'S CRUISER 7 (B,D,G) M Channon 7-9 N Varley (5) 87

3-1 Night Wink, 6-1 Three Arch Bridge, 7-1 Himalayan Blue, 10-1 Kings Assembly, Shifting Moon, Gospel Song, Risky Romeo, 16-1 others.

4.45 DLB CORPORATE FINANCE HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £6,214: 5f) (8)

1 (3) -201 DOUBLE QUICK 21 (D,G,S) M Johnston 9-7 J Weaver 96
2 (6) 2-01 COASTAL BLUFF 33 (D,F) T Barron 8-10 J Fortune 97
3 (5) -365 MUSICA 19 (BF,D,G) M Channon 8-9 K Darley 97
4 (2) 210- SHASHI 252 (D,F) D Morley 8-6 R Cochrane 88
5 (1) 4-00 HIGH RANKING 14 (D,F) M H Easterby 8-5 M Birch 94
6 (7) -102 BOLSHOI 10 (B,D,F) J Berry 8-2 W Carson 98
7 (8) 02-2 NINETY-FIVE 15 (BF) J Fitzgerald 7-13 L Charnock [illegible]
8 (4) 0-00 JUST DISSIDENT 19 R Whitaker 7-7 Dale Gibson 90

11-4 Double Quick, 7-2 Coastal Bluff, 9-2 Bolshoi, 5-1 Ninety-Five, 6-1 Musica, 8-1 Shashi, 10-1 others.

5.15 ELMIRE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,935: 1m 4f) (7)

1 (2) 0060 BEYAATEH 23 M Chapman 8-11 C Munday (7) 82
2 (6) 42- FIRST AMENDMENT 208 L Cumani 8-11 J Weaver 97
3 (1) 03-2 FLAME WAR 21 H Cecil 8-11 W Ryan [illegible]
4 (3) 0-3 HANIYA 21 J Dunlop 8-11 W Carson 98
5 (4) 000- PRIMO PANACHE 238 M Bielby 8-11 Dale Gibson –
6 (7) UPPER TORRISH B Hanbury 8-11 — –
7 (5) 4-4 ZUIENA 12 P Cole 8-11 J Fortune 89

7-4 Flame War, 9-4 First Amendment, 7-2 Haniya, 4-1 Zuiena, 12-1 Upper Torrish, 66-1 Primo Panache, Beyaateh.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 10 winners from 22 runners, 45.5%, J Dunlop, 10 from 28, 35.7%, P Cole, 3 from 9, 33.3%; W G M Turner, 3 from 12, 25.0%; M Camacho, 5 from 21, 23.8%; W Jarvis, 3 from 13, 23.1.

JOCKEYS: C Munday, 4 winners from 14 rides, 28.6%; J Weaver, 14 from 68, 20.6%, Paul Eddery, 9 from 45, 20.0%; W Ryan, 9 from 45, 20.0%, J Carroll, 12 from 104, 11.5%, J Fortune, 12 from 104, 11.5%.

Blinkered first time

BANGOR: 11.35 Gymcrak Tiger, Rythmic Rymer. 12.05 Barkin, Playful Juliet, Dancers Cavalry. FAKENHAM: 6.10 Roger's Pal. 7.10 War Counsel. 8.10 Bruff Castle. HAMILTON PARK: 7.50 Lightning Quest. 8.20 Icanspell. LINGFIELD PARK: 6.30 Hi Kiki. 8.30 Anzio. SOUTHWELL: 11.50 Taro Card. 12.20 Dawn Chance, Coniono Star, Pennine Pass. 12.50 Doctor Dunkin. 1.50 Celtic Daughter. 2.20 Statfold Pam, St Gregory.

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER
6.20 Diet. 6.50 Shafir. 7.20 Mustaffa. 7.50 Mentalasanythin. 8.20 Lord Advocate. 8.50 Embracing.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.20 PURE GENIUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,648: 5f 4yd) (18 runners)

1 000- PALLIUM 211 (D,F,G) Mrs A Naughton 7-9-10 D Lockhart (5) 10
2 0006 GONDO 15 (D,F,G,S) E Alston 8-9-10 J Edmunds (3) 15
3 5002 TEE TEE TOO 9 (G) P Haslam 3-9-7 Carol Davison (6) 3
4 4-05 FEATHERSTONE LANE 14 (V,D,F) Miss L Siddall 4-9-4 T Siddall (8) 11
5 2041 GIGGLESWICK GIRL 8 (D,F,G) M Channon 4-9-4 D Sweeney (6) 8
6 5302 KENESHA 8 D Nolan 5-9-2 R Mullen (5) 6
7 1000 CRYSTAL LOOP 10 (G) A Bailey 3-9-2 Angela Gallimore (8) 13
8 -033 DAILY STARSHINE 21 (B,D,S) J Berry 3-9-1 C Lowther (5) 18
9 -000 MUZZ 16 (CD,G,S) R McKellar 4-9-1 Jenny Benson (5) 14
10 1425 AQUADO 11 (D,F,G) A Forbes 6-8-12 D Denby 17
11 5-00 SERIOUS HURRY 8 (D,F,G) R McKellar 7-8-11 N Kinnon (8) 16
12 0001 DIET 9 (V,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 9-8-11 R Waterfield 12
13 -000 ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 15 (CD,S) R McKellar 3-8-8 K Sked (5) 7
14 250- QUICK THINKER 236 W Cunningham 3-8-8 Jo Hunnam (3) 5
15 0-60 ROBATY'S LAW 16 P Monteith 3-8-2 G MacDonald (3) 2
16 00-4 MISTER WESTSOUND 15 (D,F) Miss L Perratt 3-8-2 Joanne Webster (5) 9
17 3545 CHEEKY CHAPPY 96 (B) D Chapman 4-8-2 J Bramhill (3) 4
18 060- MY SILVERSMITH 275 P Monteith 4-7-7 B Halligan (3) 1

9-2 Giggleswick Girl, 5-1 Kenesha, 6-1 Featherstone Lane, 7-1 Diet, Mister Westsound, 15-2 Daily Starshine, 8-1 others

6.50 TATTERSALLS MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,038: 5f 4yd) (6)

1 4 DOUBLE DIAMOND 14 M Johnston 8-7 D Holland 3
2 MILETRIAN REFURB M Channon 8-7 A Clark 2
3 44 JUST RORY 10 (B) E Alston 8-2 A Mackay 4
4 2 RED RIVER VALLEY 18 Denys Smith 8-2 K Fallon 5
5 3 SHAFIR 12 J Berry 7-13 P Fessey (7) 6
6 MARJORIE ROSE A Bailey 7-11 G Bardwell 1

5-4 Shafir, 3-1 Double Diamond, 7-2 Miletrian Refurb, 8-1 Red River Valley, 9-1 Marjorie Rose, 60-1 Just Rory.

7.20 TWO PART POUR CLAIMING STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,759: 6f 5yd) (8)

1 511 MONSIEUR CULSYTH 8 (F,G) J Berry 8-12 J Carroll 4
2 5 HOMELAND 12 C Thornton 8-10 Dean McKeown 2
3 SIKOSARKI W Cunningham 8-9 K Fallon 5
4 THE BUTTERWICK KID R Fahey 8-7 A Culhane 1
5 423 MUSTAFFA 7 M Channon 8-2 A Clark 6
6 63 IMPRIMIS 8 C Allen 7-13 M Baird (5) 8
7 52 THORNTOUN JEWEL 24 M Johnston 7-13 T Williams 7
8 56 ARRAGH 33 W Kemp 7-9 A Mackay 3

Evens Monsieur Culsyth, 5-2 Thorntoun Jewel, 3-1 Imprimis, 8-1 Mustaffa, 20-1 Homeland, 25-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
6.00 Cayman Kai. 6.30 Harry's Coming. 7.00 Nordic Doll. 7.30 Prince Danzig. 8.00 Triquetta. 8.30 Takhlid.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW. 5F-7F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

6.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND CIDER MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O. £4,045: 5f) (7)

1 CAYMAN KAI R Hannon 9-0 Pat Eddery 2
2 PAOJIUNIC L Cumani 9-0 L Dettori 7
3 HURRICANE DANCER S Woods 8-9 C Webb (7) 4
4 ILLEGALLY YOURS L Montague Hall 8-9 R Price 5
5 66 MYSTERY MATTHIAS B Mrs B Sanders 8-9 A Whelan (5) 1
6 NO SYMPATHY G L Moore 8-9 B Rouse 6
7 TARF P Walwyn 8-9 R Hills 3

7-4 Paojiunic, 3-1 Cayman Kai, 7-2 Tarf, 8-1 Mystery Matthias, 10-1 Hurricane Dancer, No Sympathy, 16-1 Illegally Yours

6.30 GIN & TONIC SELLING HANDICAP (£3,426: 5f) (16)

1 000- CERTIFICATE-X 215 (D,F,S) Martyn Meade 4-9-10 V Slattery 15
2 -604 WINDRUSH BOY 8 (D,F) J Bosley 5-9-10 J Reid 6
3 2315 HARRY'S COMING 18 (CD,F,G,S) R Hodges 11-9-9 S Drowne (5) 8
4 5-00 PALEY PRINCE 7 (D,F,G) M Usher 9-9-7 C Adamson (7) 3
5 30-0 HI KIKI 24 (B) Mrs M McCourt 4-9-2 R Hills 4
6 0550 WADERS DREAM 7 (V,F) Pat Mitchell 6-9-1 M Fenton 10
7 2000 PURBECK CENTENARY 18 (CD,G) P Howling 5-8-12 R Hughes 7
8 0000 HALBERT 12 M Channon 6-8-10 J Dennis (7) 2
9 2400 LIFT BOY 7 (F,G) A Moore 6-8-10 Candy Morris 11
10 0030 EUROPHARM LASSIE 85 (V) G L Moore 4-8-9 B Rouse 16
11 2400 MISTER RAIDER 9 (B) S Mellor 3-8-8 A Daly (7) 9
12 00-0 TOP TYCOON 7 J Bridger 4-8-8 G Duffield 12
13 5060 ONENEVERYCOLOUR 15 (D,F) P Evans 3-8-6 Amanda Sanders (7) 13
14 0-46 ABSOLUTELY FABULUS 15 J Spearing 3-8-6 R Price 5
15 0-06 SUNSHINE BELLE 8 G Moore 3-8-4 N Adams 1
16 -000 LUCY'S GOLD 9 (B) M Ryan 4-8-4 D Biggs 14

5-1 Windrush Boy, 6-1 Harry's Coming, 8-1 Paley Prince, 12-1 Absolutely Fabulus, 14-1 Lift Boy, 16-1 Certificate-X, Waders Dream, Purbeck Centenary, 20-1 others.

7.00 OASTWELL WINES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,341: 7f) (16)

1 540- BALANCE OF POWER 219 (F) R Akehurst 9-7 R Hills 6
2 0-12 NORDIC DOLL 15 (BF,D,G) B Hills 9-7 Pat Eddery 12
3 1246 DENBRAE 10 (G) D Murray Smith 9-4 L Dettori 15
4 3107 GREENWICH AGAIN 8 (CD,F,G) T Mills 9-2 J Reid 8
5 350- NORDESTA 231 (C,S) M Channon 9-0 R Hughes 13
6 50-4 DANCING HEART 12 B Meehan 9-0 B Doyle 7
7 5-13 INDRAPURA 12 (BF,C,G) P Cole 8-11 C Rutter 10
8 30-3 SECOND CELLO 23 D Morris 8-10 R Price 9
9 05-0 EL DON 21 M Ryan 8-10 D Biggs 16
10 462- APOLLONO 210 R Akehurst 8-7 D Harrison 5
11 05-6 WANDERING MINSTREL 21 J Eustace 8-5 G Carter 1
12 3015 ROBO MAGIC 91 (BF,C,G) L Montague Hall 8-5 J Williams 4
13 -000 SOUTH SOUND 26 R Hannon 8-5 Dane O'Neill (7) 3
14 050- JEWEL TRADER 196 C Benstead 8-3 G Duffield 2
15 0-00 TOP PEARL 19 (G) N Graham 8-1 A McGlone 11
16 4150 WATER HAZARD 21 (CD,G) S Dow 7-11 N Adams 14

5-1 Nordic Doll, 6-1 Denbrae, 7-1 Greenwich Again, 8-1 Indrapura, Apollono, 10-1 Second Cello, Dancing Heart, 12-1 Balance Of Power, Wandering Minstrel, 16-1 others.

7.30 S.G.B./YOUNGMAN HANDICAP (£3,817: 1m 2f) (16)

1 10-0 DESERT POWER 11 (D,F,G) Martyn Meade 6-10-0 R Price 15
2 13-0 RIVAL BID 13 (CD,F,G) M Jarvis 7-9-11 L Dettori 5
3 0331 KING CURAN 9 (B,F,G,S) A Bailey 4-9-8 J Reid 13
4 2-00 BRANDONHURST 34 (F,G) Lady Herries 5-9-7 T Ives 6
5 00-U MR DEVIOUS 26 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 4-9-5 A McGlone 3
6 5-03 ANLACE 12 (F) S Mellor 6-9-1 M Wigham 16
7 6133 PRINCE DANZIG 9 (BF,CD,F,G) D Murray Smith 4-8-13 J Weaver 8
8 -450 DUTOSKY 25 (D,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 5-8-12 D Biggs 2
9 5031 KRAYYAN DAWN 40 (C,F,G) R Akehurst 5-8-11 D Harrison 7
10 00-5 PLINTH 21 (V,CD,G) N Graham 4-8-9 Pat Eddery 4
11 600- SCENIC DANCER 213 (D,F,G,S) A Hide 7-8-8 J Williams 1
12 2031 ONE OFF THE RAIL 50 (CD,G) A Moore 5-8-5 A Whelan (5) 14
13 0-10 ROLLING WATERS 9 (BF,G) J Toller 5-8-3 G Carter 11
14 6106 RED SPECTACLE 37 (G) P Haslam 3-8-2 Nicola Howarth (7) 10
15 1000 MO'S MAIN MAN 33 (D,G) S Dow 3-8-1 G Duffield 9
16 0000 MEGA TID 8 (CD,G) B Pearce 3-7-11 N Carlisle 12

6-1 Krayyan Dawn, King Curan, 8-1 Rival Bid, Prince Danzig, 10-1 Plinth, Anlace, 12-1 Rolling Waters, One Off The Rail, 14-1 Dutosky, Mr Devious, 16-1 Red Spectacle, 20-1 others

8.00 TEQUILA SUNRISE MAIDEN STAKES (£4,307: 1m 1f) (14)

1 4 CLASSICAL STAR 7 R Hodges 6-9-10 Amanda Sanders (7) 4
2 6 MOSCOW MIST 24 Lady Herries 4-9-10 J Weaver 9
3 00- VALINCO 222 S Dow 4-9-5 A Daly (7) 11
4 CANTON VENTURE S Woods 3-8-10 C Webb [illegible]
5 50-6 I'M OUTA HERE 25 R Hannon 3-8-10 J Reid 7
6 0- KAFAIB AL WIDD 247 M Stoute 3-8-10 W R Swinburn 14
7 LION TOWER H Cecil 3-8-10 W Ryan 8
8 PARK RIDGE T Mills 3-8-10 D Toole (7) 6
9 0 PHARLY REEF 28 I Balding 3-8-10 L Dettori 12
10 50- TRAGIC HERO 208 I Balding 3-8-10 T Ives 7
11 2 TRIQUETTI 13 L Cumani 3-8-10 Pat Eddery 10
12 0-5 ZATOPEK 7 R Hannon 3-8-10 R Hughes 13
13 FARMER'S TERN W Jarvis 3-8-5 M Tebbutt 2
14 0-0 ROZALINA LADY 12 N Graham 3-8-5 G Duffield 1

3-1 Triquetti, 4-1 Lion Tower, 7-1 Zatopek, 8-1 Kafaib Al Widd, Pharly Reef, 12-1 Moscow Mist, Park Ridge, 16-1 others

8.30 KIR ROYAL MAIDEN STAKES (£4,273: 6f) (15)

1 0030 ANZIO 7 (B) B Pearce 4-9-7 T Ives 13
2 SALTANDO Pat Mitchell 4-9-7 M Fenton 9
3 3 TAKHLID 24 H Thomson Jones 4-9-7 R Hills 10
4 TRY-HAITAI R Akehurst 4-9-7 D Harrison 14
5 5 FRENCH GINGER 12 I Balding 4-9-2 D Griffiths (5) 8
6 5-43 DOUBLE MATT 25 (BF) R Hannon 3-8-11 J Reid 11
7 00- HENRY WESTON 204 P Howling 3-8-11 N Carlisle 4
8 4 MILLESIME 8 B Hanbury 3-8-11 W Ryan 7
9 5-44 SAMWAR 13 (BF) B Hills 3-8-11 Pat Eddery 15
10 0 AMANY 29 G Lewis 3-8-6 A Whelan (5) 6
11 0 BOUCHE BEE 15 L Cumani 3-8-6 J Weaver 2
12 FRANKLY FRAN D Arbuthnot 3-8-6 S Whitworth 5
13 -204 PARIS BABE 12 D Morris 3-8-6 L Dettori 3
14 0 ROKA 29 R Hannon 3-8-6 Dane O'Neill (7) 1
15 ROYAL SOVEREIGN G L Moore 3-8-6 B Rouse 12

4-1 Takhlid, 5-1 Bouche Bee, 6-1 Samwar, 7-1 Paris Babe, 8-1 Double Matt, 10-1 Millesime, 12-1 French Ginger, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Cumani, 6 winners from 12 runners, 50.0%, H Thomson Jones, 7 from 20, 35.0%; W Jarvis, 13 from 47, 27.7%; H Cecil, 9 from 35, 25.7%; B Hills, 23 from 94, 24.5%; B Hanbury, 7 from 32, 21.9%.

JOCKEYS: L Dettori, 67 winners from 303 rides, 22.1%, R Hills, 18 from 82, 22.0%; J Weaver, 48 from 240, 20.0%; W R Swinburn, 9 from 50, 18.0%, Amanda Sanders, 5 from 30, 16.7%; W Ryan, 29 from 178, 16.3%.

7.50 DRAUGHT GUINNESS HANDICAP (£3,969: 1m 5f 9yd) (11)

1 3410 CLIBURNEL NEWS 21 (D,F,G) A Forbes 5-9-10 A Procter (5) 9
2 0232 MENTALASANYTHIN 9 (BF,C,G,S) A Bailey 6-9-9. A Mackay 4
3 6-40 YOUNG STEVEN 12 W Kemp 4-9-3 D R McCabe (3) 5
4 00-1 NOYAN 9 (CD,F,G) L Lungo 5-9-1 K Darley 2
5 00/6 FRIAR STREET 16 E Alston 5-9-1 K Fallon 8
6 5063 GUARDS BRIGADE 9 (G) J Hetherton 4-8-12 N Kennedy 1
7 2063 SCALP 'EM 8 (BF,D,F,G) P Evans 7-8-9 A Clark 10
8 0-04 JARROW 16 (V) Mrs A Naughton 4-8-6 T Williams 11
9 0004 LIGHTNING QUEST 8 (B,F) J Wainwright 4-7-13 L Charnock 6
10 34-0 MAC RAMBLER 9J N Bycroft 8-7-11 N Varley (5) 7
11 446/ BAJAN AFFAIR 15J Miss L Siddall 5-7-7 Darren Moffatt (3) 3

9-4 Noyan, 4-1 Mentalasanythin, 9-2 Scalp 'em, 5-1 Guards Brigade, 9-1 Jarrow, 10-1 Cliburnel News, 12-1 Lightning Quest, Mac Rambler, 16-1 Friar Street, 20-1 others.

8.20 PERFECT PINT SELLING HANDICAP (£2,731: 1m 3f 16yd) (18)

1 0-32 PRESTON GUILD 11 (G,S) A Forbes 5-9-10 A Procter (5) 6
2 0/00 MHEMEANLES 12 (F,G,S) J Wilson 5-9-8 D Wright (3) 13
3 -405 MONKEY WENCH 10 (V,C,F) J Berry 4-9-6 J Carroll 18
4 10-0 DIAMOND CROWN 19 (F) Martyn Wane 4-9-5 L Charnock 4
5 00-0 ALPINE SKIER 10J (B,S) Mrs M Reveley 4-9-0 K Darley 3
6 00-0 ICANSPELL 7J (B,G) W Storey 4-9-0 J Fanning 5
7 430- PLUM DENNIS 247 N Bycroft 4-8-9 A Mackay 15
8 0-20 DOUBLING DICE 15 R Allan 4-8-7 S Maloney 8
9 0545 GOLD DESIRE 15 (G,S) M Brittain 5-8-6 G Bardwell 11
10 4003 DUNDEELIN 22 (C,S) J Eyre 4-8-6 R Lappin 14
11 -000 PETAL'S JARRED 21 (G) W Storey 5-8-4 P Fessey (7) 7
12 000- CADEAUX PREMIERE 201 Denys Smith 4-8-2 K Fallon 12
13 -543 JACKMANII 9 W Kemp 3-8-2 D R McCabe (3) 1
14 00-3 LORD ADVOCATE 8 (B,F,G) D Nolan 7-7-12 N Varley (5) 9
15 0-00 SYLVAN CELEBRATION 9 Miss L Perratt 4-7-10 T Williams 2
16 000- TOCCO JEWEL 236 (S) M Ryan 5-7-9 M Baird (5) 18
17 -000 WILD ADVENTURE 10 D Chapman 6-7-8 N Kennedy 16
18 0006 VENTURE FOURTH 22 E Alston 6-7-8 D Lockhart (7) 17

9-4 Preston Guild, 7-2 Monkey Wench, 9-2 Lord Advocate, 5-1 Gold Desire, 6-1 Dundeelin, 10-1 Diamond Crown, 12-1 Alpine Skier, Icanspell, Doubling Dice, Jackmanii, 16-1 others.

8.50 ARTHUR GUINNESS MAIDEN STAKES (£3,741: 1m 4f 17yd) (5)

1 0 PRINCE EQUINAME 21 D Eddy 3-8-6 J Fanning 3
2 04 SAYYED ALRAQS 8 M Jarvis 3-8-6 J Carroll 2
3 5-2 EMBRACING 14 M Stoute 3-8-1 K Darley 1
4 GLENROCK DANCER W Kemp 3-8-1 D R McCabe (3) 4
5 64 PHILMIST 9 J Hetherton 3-8-1 N Kennedy 5

1-6 Embracing, 8-1 Sayyed Alraqs, 14-1 Glenrock Dancer, 16-1 Prince Equiname, Philmist.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 31 winners from 141 runners, 22.0%, J Berry, 52 from 243, 21.4%; P Haslam, 20 from 106, 18.9%, M Channon, 3 from 17, 17.6%; M Johnston, 26 from 156, 16.7%; C Thornton, 8 from 49, 16.3%. J Wainwright, 3 from 22, 13.6%, A Bailey, 7 from 53, 13.2%.

JOCKEYS: R Lappin, 4 winners from 17 rides, 23.5%; J Carroll, 46 from 207, 22.2%, K Darley, 45 from 223, 20.2%; Dean McKeown, 24 from 155, 15.5%, A Mackay, 11 from 102, 10.8%; K Fallon, 17 from 172, 9.9%; Darren Moffatt, 6 from 68, 8.8%.

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Soviet Line to extend Stoute's run of success

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

MICHAEL STOUTE is presently averaging a winner a day and the champion trainer can continue his tremendous run this weekend by landing the televised group one Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes at Newbury tomorrow with the much improved **Soviet Line**.

Having started last season as a handicapper, the gelding became a smart performer and won five times, including three group races, the most notable of which was the Hong Kong International Bowl in December.

Young Ern, one of his four rivals tomorrow, was three lengths away in fourth at Sha Tin and with Simon Dow's runner having been beaten twice before by Soviet Line it is difficult seeing him reversing the form on identical terms.

While Soviet Line is making his first venture into group one company, Muhtarram was placed regularly in top-class fields last year and won the group two Prince Of Wales's Stakes. However, John Gosden's runner is almost certainly best over ten furlongs and could be tapped for speed here.

By contrast, Gosden's other representative, Mutakddim, is better at seven furlongs and was beaten comfortably by Missed Flight in the Sandown Mile last month. Chris Wall's stable star has a good turn of foot, will appreciate the good ground and is the main threat.

At Newbury this afternoon, Stoute has sound prospects of increasing his narrow lead at the head of the trainers table by taking the listed Aston Park Stakes with **Sadler's Image**. The best is still to be seen of this four-year-old who holds Coronation Cup and Hardwicke Stakes entries. The stable's runner in the London Gold Cup, High Standard, will appreciate the longer trip and can go close but preference is for the progressive *Happy Dancer*.

However, the Stoute bandwagon should continue rolling at Thirsk where **Knave's Ash** looks ready to resume winning ways in the Dibb Lupton Broomhead Cup after a good run at Kempton 12 days ago.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

On the same card, *Ihtiram* is still on the upgrade and after just failing to beat the well handicapped Holtye at Sandown can gain compensation in the Dishforth Conditions Stakes.

Victory for the John Dunlop-trained colt would advertise the chances of **Holtye**, who still looks well treated in another televised event, the Sunset Boulevard Handicap at Newbury tomorrow, despite an 8lb rise in the handicap after his Sandown success three weeks ago.

In the third televised race, Reg Akehurst has found a good spot for **Smuggling** who impressed when quickening up the Sandown hill last month to beat Inchcailloch. The runner-up, who franked the form when winning at Bath last Saturday, reopposes on worse terms in the concluding Really Useful-Nordoff Robbins handicap.

The Ripon card tomorrow does not look punter friendly but one runner that interests me is **Sovereign Page** (3.15), who failed to get a clear run at a crucial stage of his race at Chester 12 days ago but still managed to get within a length of the winner.

Stoute: sparkling form

Juddmonte Lockinge Stakes is highlight of tomorrow's two meetings

NEWBURY

THUNDERER
2.00 King Balant
2.30 Masehaab
3.00 Moon King
3.30 Desert Harvest
4.00 Muhtarram
4.30 SALT LAKE (nap)
5.00 Blaze Away

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 Mukhatab. 4.00 Soviet Line. 4.30 HOLTYE (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 6F-1M STRAIGHT, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.00 MAIL ON SUNDAY MILE (Handicap: £8,278: 1m str) (27 runners)

101 (22) 43114-6 BAGSHOT 57 (F,S) (G Teo) R Hannon 4-10-9 R Perham 91
102 (20) 0/50-055 UNCLE OSWALD 18 (D,F) (Kinnersley Company) R Hannon 4-9-9 Dane O'Neill (7) 94
103 (15) 1404-32 BEDIVERE 12 (G) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-9-7 B Thomson 95
104 (3) 5061/0- MAKE A STAND 390 (D,S) (Kingstone Warren Partners) H Candy 4-9-6 N Adams –
105 (7) 00552-3 TOP BANANA 18 (Evans of Isle Mrs C Gross) H Candy 4-9-5 W Newnes 94
106 (21) 0-54400 KNOBBLEENEEZE 8 (V,C,D,F,G,S) (A Andrews) M Channon 5-9-5 R Hughes 98
107 (11) 113521- SAMBA SHARPLY 247 (D,F,S) (Mrs V Jarvis) A Hide 4-9-5 J Williams 90
108 (26) 01630-3 MO-ADDAB 26 (D,F,G) (S Hammond) A Stewart 5-9-5 R Hills 93
109 (9) 00054-1 DEEVEE 18 (CD,F,G,S) (D Turner) C Benstead 6-9-4 G Duffield 98
110 (18) 6/35101- DESERT TIME 276 (F) (Spool Racing) C Horgan 5-9-4 M Perrett 88
111 (5) 00400-0 SET THE FASHION 18 (V,D,F,G,S) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 6-9-2 D Harrison 94
112 (6) 6003-0 KHAYRAPOUR 18 (F) (Miss J Semple) B Meehan 5-9-1 Pat Eddery 88
113 (1) 0U00-02 SAIFAN 18 (B,D,F,G) (Ms L Hawes) D Morris 6-9-1 C Hodgson (5) 93
114 (12) 13410-0 ZAJKO 18 (D,F) (Sir Roger Gibbs) Lady Herries 5-9-1 R Cochrane 88
115 (24) /0010-0 MOHAWK TRAIL 13 (F,G) (M Wall) G Lewis 6-9-1 A Lakeman (7) 80
116 (19) 33000-0 HIGHLAND MAGIC 29 (G,S) (Miss N Carroll) M Fetherston-Godley 7-9-0 F Norton 90
117 (13) 101-000 DUFFERTOES 14 (G,S) (Mrs P Williams) M Ryan 3-9-0 G Carter ●
118 (14) 06160-2 NASHAAT 9 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs C Painting) N Walker 7-8-13 R Painter (5) 95
119 (4) 40-1 STINGING REPLY 24 (D,F) (The Queen) I Balding 3-8-13 M Hills 88
120 (7) 1433-50 SAMAH 26 (BF,D,F) (Mrs N Robinson) D Nicholls 5-8-12 C Rutter 94
121 (16) 000-650 SAFEY ANA 14 (B) (Optimists Racing) B Hanbury 4-8-10 T Ives 95
122 (25) 5021-3 KING BALANT 50 (D,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 3-8-8 W R Swinburn 88
123 (23) 030-600 PRENONAMOSS 13 (V,D,F,G) (Mrs W Oram) D Arbuthnot 7-8-5 M Tebbutt 97
124 (8) 00451-0 BROUGHTON SINGER 24 (G) (B Fulton) W Musson 4-8-3 A McGlone 90
125 (17) 43-50 FLORIDANTE 12 (Lord Donoughmore) P Cole 3-8-3 T Quinn 93
126 (27) 1-12400 BATTLESHIP BRUCE 18 (D,G,S) (T Foreman) N Callaghan 3-8-1 – 91
127 (10) 514320 HAWWAM 18 (CD,F,G,S) (North West Racing Club) E Alston 9-7-11 S Lanigan (7) 93

BETTING: 8-1 Bedivere, 9-1 Deevee, 10-1 Top Banana, King Balant, 12-1 Saifan, Stinging Reply, Bagshot, Zajko, 14-1 Hawwam, Battleship Bruce, 16-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

2.30 WATERSHIP DOWN STUD MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts and geldings: £5,865: 6f 8yd) (18 runners)

201 (18) 04 BACK BY DAWN 25 (White Horse Racing Ltd) D Elsworth 8-11 B Doyle ●
202 (9) 6 CAT'O'ORO 22 (Mrs B Swire) G Balding 8-11 J Williams –
203 (7) GENTILHOMME (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-11 T Quinn –
204 (2) INVERLOCHY (Mrs D Sieff) J Dunlop 8-11 W Newnes –
205 (12) KAHIR ALMAYDAN (Mirza Al Sayegh) J Dunlop 8-11 G Carter –
206 (5) KILVINE (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 8-11 W R Swinburn –
207 (8) LA TANSANI (Saleh Al Homeizi) R Hannon 8-11 S Raymont –
208 (15) MASEHAAB (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-11 R Hills –
209 (11) MASTER LYNX (P Skelton) G Lewis 8-11 S Whitworth –
210 (16) MAYGAIN (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 8-11 R Hughes –
211 (10) 0 MULTI FRANCHISE 8 (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 8-11 A McGlone 79
212 (13) MUNKETH (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 8-11 G Duffield –
213 (17) NORTH STAR (P and Paul Sedgwick) R Hannon 8-11 R Perham –
214 (14) OBLOMOV (J Manley) G Lewis 8-11 R Cochrane –
215 (4) RUSSIAN REVIVAL (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 B Thomson –
216 (3) STATE VISITOR (D Gallop) R Hannon 8-11 Pat Eddery –
217 (6) TAGULA (R & E Hitchins) I Balding 8-11 T Ives –
218 (1) THE LEGIONS PRIDE (Royal British Legion Racing Club) J Hills 8-11 M Hills –

BETTING: 3-1 Russian Revival, 4-1 Gentilhomme, 6-1 Masehaab, 7-1 Inverlochy, 8-1 Munketh, 10-1 others.

1994: HELMSMAN 9-0 J Reid (4-6 fav) P Chapple-Hyam 18 ran

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.00 CATS CONDITIONS STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,561: 7f 64yd) (4 runners)

301 (4) 1150-0 PRINCE OF INDIA 22 (F,G) (Sir Gordon Brunton) Lord Huntingdon 9-6 D Harrison 85
302 (1) 141-6 INZAR 32 (S) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-2 T Quinn 94
303 (2) 2880-30 MOON KING 21 (G,S) (Mohammed Suhail) R Hannon 8-12 W R Swinburn ●
304 (3) 413-6 DASHING WATER 33 (D,S) (J Smith) I Balding 8-7 M Hills 93

BETTING: 2-1 Prince of India, 9-4 Moon King, 5-2 Inzar, 3-1 Dashing Water.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.30 STARLIGHT MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £5,735: 7f 64yd) (18 runners)

401 (6) 0 BACKHANDER 25 (Stanford Thoroughbreds) J Toller 9-0 T Quinn 82
402 (3) 2-6 DESERT HARVEST 29 (Cliveden Stud) R Charlton 9-0 Paul Eddery 90
403 (14) 30-5345 EASY DOLLAR 13 (V) (B Gubby Ltd) B Gubby 9-0 J Williams 97
404 (16) 000- EASY JET 215 (Crown Partnership) Lord Huntingdon 9-0 D Harrison 83
405 (4) 60- HIGH PRIEST 205 (Square Mile Partnership) L Cumani 9-0 O Urbina (3) –
406 (8) MUGWITY (A Ali) B Hanbury 9-0 T Ives –
407 (1) KARAAR (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0 G Hind –
408 (5) MAROCCO (Sheikh Mohammed) H Cecil 9-0 A McGlone –
409 (12) MUKHATAB (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills –
410 (7) 0- NIGHT EXCELLENCE 198 (A Mazon) B Hills 9-0 J D Smith (5) –
411 (9) 0- NORSONG 195 (Fairy Story Partnership) R Akehurst 9-0 S Sanders (3) –
412 (15) 32 PINZON 15 (BF) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 B Thomson ●
413 (18) TARAWA (Mrs J Callaghan) N Callaghan 9-0 G Duffield –
414 (13) 0 YOSIF 29 (Saleh Al Homeizi) R Hannon 9-0 W R Swinburn –
415 (2) GREAT INQUEST (Lord Dalmeny) J Gosden 8-9 R Cochrane –
416 (11) KNOTALLY WOOD (C Wright) J Hills 8-9 M Hills –
417 (17) TRULY MADLY DEEPLY (J Short & K Wills) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9 M Wigham –
418 (10) ZELDA ZONK (Mrs C Painting) B Meehan 8-9 B Doyle –

BETTING: 7-2 Karaar, 4-1 Great Inquest, 5-1 Marocco, 6-1 Pinzon, 7-1 Mukhatab, 8-1 High Priest, Desert Harvest, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

4.00 JUDDMONTE LOCKINGE STAKES (Group I: £70,210: 1m str) (5 runners)

BBC2

501 (3) 0120-31 MISSED FLIGHT 23 (CD,G,S) (W Grotmuller) C Wall 5-9-0 G Duffield ●
502 (1) 122343- MUHTARRAM 218 (D,F,G) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 6-9-0 R Hills 96
503 (2) 02416-3 MUTAKDDIM 23 (C,F,S) (Hamdan Al-Maktoum) J Gosden 4-9-0 G Hind 90
504 (4) 411121- SOVIET LINE 181 (D,F,G) (Maktoum Al-Maktoum) M Stoute 5-9-0 W R Swinburn 93
505 (5) 21404-1 YOUNG ERN 22 (C,F,G,S) (M Kentish) S Dow 5-9-0 T Quinn 97

BETTING: 2-1 Soviet Line, 9-4 Muhtarram, 3-1 Missed Flight, 9-2 Young Ern, 10-1 Mutakddim.

1994: EMPEROR JONES 4-9-0 L Dettori (11-2) J Gosden 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

MISSED FLIGHT unsuited by slow pace and met trouble in running when below form ¾l 3rd to Airport at Doncaster (1m, good) on seasonal debut, significantly better effort when beating Ridgewood Ben 1¾l in 5-runner group II Sandown Mile at Sandown (1m, good) with MUTAKDDIM (4lb worse off) ½l 3rd.

MUHTARRAM short-head and neck 3rd of 8 to Dernier Empereur in group I Dubai Champion Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). SOVIET LINE beat Nijinsky's Gold 1¾l in the 14-runner group III Hong Kong International Bowl at Sha Tin (7f, good) with YOUNG ERN HEAD and 1f 4th. YOUNG ERN beat Mistle Cat ½l in an 8-runner listed race at Leicester (7f, good to firm).

Selection: MUHTARRAM (nap)

4.30 SUNSET BOULEVARD RATED HANDICAP (£9,338: 1m 1f) (8 runners)

BBC2

601 (7) 215- NIGHT CITY 379 (S) (Dexam International Ltd) Lady Herries 4-9-7 Pat Eddery 88
602 (3) 032210- GREEN CRUSADER 232 (V,G,S) (Cheveley Park) M Stoute 4-9-0 W R Swinburn 93
603 (5) 0200-03 RISK MASTER 18 (C,G) (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 6-8-12 R Hills 97
604 (2) 1135-0 LOMAS 23 (F,G) (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 4-8-9 V Slattery 91
605 (2) 6-140-6 SALT LAKE 37 (F) (Bloomsbury Stud) P Chapple-Hyam 4-8-7 B Thomson ●
606 (7) 4300-05 EMBANKMENT 15 (F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 5-8-7 T Quinn 86
607 (6) 51-311 MOMENTS OF FORTUNE 14 (B,F,G) (A Ali) B Hanbury 3-8-6 T Ives 95
608 (4) 612-1 HOLTYE 22 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-3 A McGlone 98

BETTING: 9-4 Holtye, 7-2 Moments Of Fortune, 5-1 Salt Lake, 6-1 Embankment, 8-1 Green Crusader, Night City, 10-1 Risk Master, 25-1 Lomas.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

NIGHT CITY about 2l 5th of 7 to Adema in the group II Derby Trial Stakes at Leopardstown (1m 2f, good) May 1994. GREEN CRUSADER beat Deer Hunt 1¾l in 8-runner handicap here (1m 2f, soft) penultimate start, Sep 1994. RISK MASTER 5½l last of 3 to [illegible] in conditions race at Ascot (1m, good to firm). LOMAS about 10½l 5th of 6 to [illegible] in a listed race here (1m 2f, good to firm) penultimate start, July 1994. SALT LAKE 8l 8th of 10 to Kaldounevees in group III Prix Edmond Blanc at Saint-Cloud (1m, good). EMBANKMENT about 3½l 5th of 10 to [illegible] in handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). MOMENTS OF FORTUNE completed double, beat Seattle John neck in 7-runner listed race at San Siro (1m 2f, firm). HOLTYE beat Ihtiram short-head in 13-runner Sandown handicap (1m, good).

Selection: MOMENTS OF FORTUNE

5.00 REALLY USEFUL-NORDOFF ROBBINS HANDICAP (£7,522: 2m) (12 runners)

BBC2

1 (10) 2151- ROBINGO 456J (B,C,D,F,G,S) (M & N Plant Ltd) Mrs L Murphy 6-10-0 J Williams –
2 (12) 5523-00 NOT IN DOUBT 18 (F) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 6-9-10 W Newnes 88
3 (3) 6042-31 BLAZE AWAY 14 (F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 4-9-6 R Cochrane 96
4 (11) 216000- MUNTAFI 57J (F) (One Over Eight Partners) G Harwood 4-9-3 M Perrett 88
5 (5) 314-045 POLO KIT 23 (G) (Cheveley Park Stud) J Fanshawe 4-9-2 D Harrison 96
6 (2) 011-110 ART FORUM 22 (D,F,G) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 9-9-0 T Ives 95
7 (7) 14-21 SMUGGLING 23 (D,F,G) (G Taiano) R Akehurst 4-8-13 T Quinn 94
8 (4) 0/45- POLISH CONSUL 344 (Lord Chelsea) W Hern 4-8-7 R Hills 90
9 (1) 10-1535 LALINDI 14 (G,S) (White Horse Racing) D Elsworth 4-8-5 S Drowne (5) ●
10 (5) 305-021 MARADONNA 53 (D,G,S) (A Spargo) J White 6-8-3 G Duffield 88
11 (2) 0045-21 INCHCAILLOCH 8 (C,F,S) (F Carter) J King 6-8-1 Paul Eddery 96
12 (9) 000-0 SAILS LEGEND 23 (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 4-7-7 N Adams –

BETTING: 7-2 Smuggling, 5-1 Inchcailloch, Blaze Away, 8-1 Not In Doubt, Polo Kit, 10-1 Muntafi, Art Forum, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

ROBINGO beat Desab 3½l in a 12-runner handicap at Kempton (2m, good) May 1993. BLAZE AWAY beat Pride Of May neck in 13-runner handicap at Salisbury (1m 6f, good to firm) with LALINDI (6lb better off) about 7¾l 5th. ART FORUM beat One Off The Rail 1¼l in 7-runner handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f) penultimate start. SMUGGLING beat INCHCAILLOCH (5lb worse off) 1½l in 17-runner handicap at Sandown (2m 78yd, good) with LALINDI (9lb better off) 2½l 3rd, POLO KIT (7lb better off) neck and head 5th and SAILS LEGEND (2lb better off) about 15l 19th. POLISH CONSUL about 6l last of 6 to Dalbog in maiden at York (1m, good to firm). INCHCAILLOCH beat French Ivy ½l in Bath 20-runner handicap (2m 1f, firm).

Selection: SMUGGLING

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Chapple-Hyam	30	98	30.6	Pat Eddery	42	240	17.5
J Gosden	27	118	22.9	Pat Eddery	42	240	17.5
L Cumani	12	53	22.6	D Harrison	11	82	13.4
Lady Herries	6	30	20.0	W R Swinburn	19	148	12.8
H Cecil	15	76	19.7	T Quinn	22	203	10.8
G Lewis	10	64	15.6	R Hills	6	56	10.7
W Hern	5	32	15.6	R Cochrane	16	154	10.4

☐ The Jockey Club yesterday upheld the £1,000 fine on Dave Thom, the Newmarket trainer, which was imposed after his Tiger Shoot was deemed to be a non-trier at Southwell on May 11. A £1,000 fine and seven-day ban for the apprentice, Lee Newton, who rode Tiger Shoot, was also upheld.

THUNDERER
2.15 Classic Leader. 2.45 Roseate Lodge. 3.15 Muferr. 3.45 Hickory Blue. 4.15 Snow Valley. 4.45 Celtic Fringe.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.45 CELTIC FRINGE.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.15 FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,713: 6f) (14 runners)

1 (9) CLASSIC LEADER S Williams 9-0 A Mackay –
2 (10) 4 COPPER BRIGHT 19 P Haslam 9-0 J Fortune 82
3 (7) 0 EURO EXPRESS 46 (B) M H Easterby 9-0 S Maloney –
4 (1) JEDAAL L Cumani 9-0 K Darley –
5 (3) KINGFISHER BRAVE S Norton 9-0 J Fanning –
6 (12) OVERSMAN J Fitzgerald 9-0 K Fallon –
7 (2) PERCY PARK M Johnston 9-0 D Holland –
8 (5) 5 RAPID LINER 36 A Harrison 9-0 J Stack (5) 81
9 (6) RIVER TERN J Berry 9-0 J Carroll –
10 (11) 03 THAI MORNING 47 P Harris 9-0 P Robinson ●
11 (14) 00 TOPAGLOW 22 P Dalton 9-0 L Charnock 75
12 (4) 0 ELLE MAC 19 M Bielby 8-9 A Culhane –
13 (8) HOW COULD-I M H Easterby 8-9 M Birch –
14 (13) 5 TRICKLEDOWN 22 C Fairhurst 8-9 Dean McKeown 89

3-1 Jedaal, 7-2 River Tern, 5-1 Classic Leader, 7-1 Thai Morning, Copper Bright, 8-1 Percy Park, 10-1 Rapid Liner, 12-1 others.

2.45 SUNDAY IS FUNDAY AT THE RACES SELLING STAKES (£2,853: 1m) (10 runners)

1 (5) 0000 GREEK GOLD 9 (G) D Nicholls 6-9-9 Alex Greaves 82
2 (6) 5142 ROSEATE LODGE 20 (D,F,G) K Burke 9-9-9 A Clark ●
3 (8) 0-00 LEVEL EDGE 128 (D,G,S) M Hammond 4-9-4 K Darley 89
4 (10) 0366 PUFFY 22 (B,F,G,S) M Dods 8-9-4 J Carroll 84
5 (9) MILLSTOCK 36J A Jones 5-8-13 J Fortune –
6 (4) 5/0- MY LINDIANNE 146J J Dooler 8-8-13 S Webster –
7 (7) 4614 SLYTLY BEVELED 10 (B,D,F,G) N Littmoden 3-8-11 – 92
8 (1) 00-0 CASTLETOWN COUNT 6 (F) K Hogg 3-8-6 D McKeown 89
9 (3) 53 JAVA RED 10 J Fitzgerald 3-8-6 K Fallon 85
10 (2) 000- MY HANDSOME PRINCE 223 P Bevan 3-8-6 N Carlisle –

11-4 Roseate Lodge, 7-2 Slytly Beveled, 5-1 Castletown Count, 7-1 others.

3.15 SUNDAY EXPRESS BEST FOR SPORT SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £5,367: 1m 2f) (13)

1 (6) 160- DESERT FIGHTER 34J (D,BF,F,G) D Nicholson 4-10-0 A Clark 89
2 (9) 0-03 LAXFORD BRIDGE 12 (D,F) P Harris 4-9-12 D Holland 98
3 (8) 060- COLWAY ROCK 220 (G,S) J Watts 5-9-8 N Connorton 93
4 (4) 5-24 SOVEREIGN PAGE 12 (CD,BF,F,G) B Hanbury 6-9-7 J Stack (5) ●
5 (10) 6-00 LOCOROTONDO 19 (D,F,S) M Bell 4-9-3 M Fenton 97
6 (2) 0000 TALENTED TING 12 (C,D,F,G) P Haslam 6-8-8 T Williams 98
7 (11) 5-1F MUFERR 36 (BF,G) L Cumani 3-8-6 K Darley 98
8 (12) 0-05 DURHAM DRAPES 8 M H Easterby 4-8-3 S Maloney 93
9 (5) -520 XALDU 12 (V) W Essey 4-7-13 L Charnock 95
10 (7) 505- ESSAYEFFSEE 201 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-7-9 Dale Gibson 92
11 (1) -042 MURPHY'S GOLD 9 (F) R Fahey 4-7-8 J Quinn 94
12 (13) 0-00 LANCASHIRE LIFE 15 E Alston 4-7-7 G Bardwell 88
13 (3) 1543 RED INDIAN 20 (D,F,G) W Haigh 9-7-7 Martin Dwyer (7) 81

9-4 Muferr, 9-2 Sovereign Page, 6-1 Laxford Bridge, Murphy's Gold, 7-1 others.

3.45 RIPON SUNDAY SPRINT CHALLENGE HANDICAP (£7,133: 5f) (14)

1 (14) 130- FOR THE PRESENT 258 (C,F,G) T Barron 5-10-0 J Fortune 90
2 (4) 0-00 STEPHENSONS ROCKET 29 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 4-9-2 J Carroll 86
3 (5) 003- HERE COMES A STAR 240 (D,F,G) J Carr 7-9-2 S Morris 90
4 (9) 003- LEPINE 218 (C,D,F,S) J Watts 4-9-1 N Connorton 88
5 (6) 00-0 BEAU VENTURE 29 (D,F,G,S) F Lee 7-9-0 P McCabe (5) 92
6 (2) 0636 KILDEE LAD 8 (D,F,G) A Jones 5-9-0 M Fenton 97
7 (11) 5060 PAGEBOY 8 (D,F,G) P Haslam 6-8-13 T Williams 89
8 (10) -443 NAME THE TUNE 4 (D,G,S) P Howling 4-8-12 J Quinn ●
9 (7) 26-1 HICKORY BLUE 9 (B,D,F) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-11 Dale Gibson 98
10 (9) 4-21 TOTAL STRANGER 12 (CD,F) Mrs L Piggott 3-8-10 K Darley 98
11 (12) 2-22 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY 11 (B,D,BF,G,S) S Bowring 5-8-10 C Teague (5) 95
12 (1) -343 NED'S BONANZA 1 (D,F,G) M Dods 6-8-8 K Fallon 93
13 (8) -514 COOL EDGE 16 (D,F,BF) M Tompkins 4-8-8 P Robinson 92
14 (13) 3604 DOMICKSKY 8 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 7-8-5 A Clark 96

5-1 Name The Tune, 6-1 Hickory Blue, 7-1 Broadstairs Beauty, Total Stranger, 8-1 Lepine, Ned's Bonanza, 10-1 Cool Edge, Pageboy, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: H Cecil, 17 winners from 37 runners, 45.9%; M Stoute, 13 from 45, 28.9%; L Cumani, 6 from 21, 28.6%; M Channon, 4 from 20, 20.0%; J Berry, 22 from 133, 16.5%; M Johnston, 13 from 81, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: P Robinson, 4 winners from 24 rides, 16.7%; J Carroll, 16 from 98, 16.3%; K Darley, 25 from 156, 16.0%; J Tate, 5 from 33, 15.2%; Dean McKeown, 14 from 107, 13.1%; N Connorton, 12 from 93, 12.9%

4.15 MIDDLEHAM TRAINERS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,299: 1m 4f 60yd) (10)

1 (4) 0-03 SNOW VALLEY 151 L Cumani 9-7 K Darley ●
2 (2) 0-05 THALJANAH 24 A Stewart 9-4 D Holland 91
3 (5) 05-5 CRESPO 52 J Fanshawe 9-1 J Carroll 88
4 (9) 00-3 TOP LADY 19 M Stoute 8-9 J Tate (3) 94
5 (6) 1-05 LUCIDITY 27 (G) C Thornton 8-4 Dean McKeown 87
6 (10) -064 EQUITY'S DARLING 16 M Bell 8-4 M Fenton 91
7 (7) 6-03 FINAL FLING 34 J Watts 8-1 N Connorton 88
8 (3) 0-61 TESSAJOE 31 (CD,F) M Camacho 8-0 L Charnock 97
9 (8) -120 LAST CORNER 20 (D,G) R Hollinshead 7-11 J Quinn 98
10 (1) 060- SILVERDALE COUNT 237 K Hogg 7-7 D Lockhart (7) –

7-2 Snow Valley, 4-1 Tessajoe, 5-1 Thaljanah, 6-1 Final Fling, 8-1 Top Lady, Crespo, 10-1 Lucidity, 12-1 others.

4.45 GO SUNDAY RACING IN YORKSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m 1f) (11)

1 (8) 0-5 DESERT SPRING 22 P Harris 9-0 D Holland 88
2 (5) 0-5 EAU DE COLOGNE 22 C Thornton 9-0 A Mackay –
3 (3) KING'S CROWN E Dunlop 9-0 J Tate (3) –
4 (2) 534- MOORTGATE 212 M Bielby 9-0 M Fenton 66
5 (1) 0-5 PARKLIFE 120 P Haslam 9-0 T Williams –
6 (4) 60- PILSUDSKI 222 (BF) M Stoute 9-0 Dean McKeown 81
7 (2) 04- SWANDALE FLYER 201 N Bycroft 9-0 S Maloney 89
8 (10) 2 CELTIC FRINGE 19 (BF) H Cecil 8-9 J Carroll ●
9 (11) 3- ELLIE ARDENSKY 204 J Fanshawe 8-9 N Varley (5) 84
10 (6) 4-0 KEWAASHI 32 L Cumani 8-9 K Darley 74
11 (9) 40 SKEDADDLE 11 J Fitzgerald 8-9 K Fallon 70

3-1 Celtic Fringe, 4-1 Ellie Ardensky, 9-2 Kewaashi, 7-1 Desert Spring, 8-1 King's Crown, 10-1 Moortgate, Eau De Cologne, 12-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good

2.05 (1m) 1, Hoh Express (K Darley, 13-2); 2, Restructure (16-1); 3, Bakers' Gate (11-10 fav). 21 ran. Nk, 1¾l. I Balding. Tote: £8.60; £1.90, £7.00, £1.10. DF: £97.40. Trio: £46.60. CSF: £112.52.

2.40 (5f 34yd) 1, Mari (L Dettori, 4-1); 2, Satellite Star (33-1); 3, Unconditional Love (7-4 fav). 7 ran. 6l, nk. R Akehurst. Tote: £4.30; £2.00, £4.70. DF: £94.20. CSF: £73.91.

3.10 (6f 8yd) 1, Sergeyev (R Hughes, 5-1); 2, Baaderah (11-2); 3, Overbrook (6-1). Tarhhib 5-4 fav. 10 ran. ¾l, 2½l. R Hannon. Tote: £5.60; £2.10, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £9.30. Trio: £12.60. CSF: £32.48.

3.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Spout (Pat Eddery, 9-2); 2, Fleet Hill (11-1); 3t, Bint Zamayem (25-1); 3t, Strutting (14-1). Phantom Gold 13-8 fav. 8 ran. 1¾l, sh hd. R Charlton. Tote: £4.90; £1.80, £2.10, Bint Zamayem £1.30, Strutting £1.30. DF: £24.20. CSF: £42.37.

4.10 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, Zaralaska (L Dettori, 5-2 fav, Thunderer's nap); 2, Gone For A Burton (10-1); 3, La Spezia (9-1). 11 ran. NR: Pembridge Place. 1¼l, hd. L Cumani. Tote: £3.20; £1.80, £2.20, £2.60. DF: £27.00. Trio: £63.30. CSF: £28.12. Tricast: £199.96.

4.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Smart Generation (J Reid, 12-1); 2, Virtual Reality (6-1); 3, Bookcase (16-1); 4, Clouded Elegance (8-1). Okavango 3-1 fav. 16 ran. NR: Uncle Oswald. 1½l, 1¾l. Lord Huntingdon. Tote: £19.30; £2.80, £1.90, £4.30, £1.60. DF: £132.50. Trio: £350.60. CSF: £79.02. Tricast: £1,077.51.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,543.46 carried forward to Newbury today).
Placepot: £632.60. Quadpot: £89.40.

Newmarket

Going: good

2.15 (6f) 1, Paloma Bay (M Fenton, 4-1); 2, Omara (13-8 fav); 3, Thrilling Day (6-1). 9 ran. NR: Galine. 1¾l, 1½l. M Bell. Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £3.20. Trio: £14.30. CSF: £10.26.

2.50 (7f) 1, Madly Sharp (J Fanning, 10-1); 2, Realities (8-1); 3, Classic Sky (11-1). Billy Bushwacker 13-8 fav. 12 ran. 2½l, ½l. J Watts. Tote: £9.80; £2.80, £2.60, £3.50. DF: £40.30. Trio: £161.30. CSF: £86.52. Tricast: £825.04.

3.20 (1m 6f) 1, Requested (D R McCabe, 7-1); 2, Trans Siberia (9-2 fav); 3, Island Blade (13-2). 10 ran. Nk, ¾l. P Burgoyne. Tote: £14.50; £3.10, £2.40, £1.90. DF: £42.50. Trio: £112.20. CSF: £37.08. Tricast: £198.71.

3.50 (7f) 1, Epagris (W Ryan, 4-6 fav); 2, Warning Shadows (10-1); 3, Karayb (16-1). 7 ran. 1¾l, 2l. H Cecil. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £3.40. DF: £5.90. CSF: £8.01.

4.20 (1m) 1, Smart Guest (M Fenton, 8-11 fav); 2, Woodrising (12-1); 3, Miles Away (12-1). 11 ran. 2½l, 5l. M Bell. Tote: £1.60; £1.30, £1.80, £4.00. DF: £3.90. Trio: £69.90. CSF: £10.55.

4.55 (1m 4f) 1, Larrocha (W R Swinburn, 9-4 fav); 2, Kymin (40-1); 3, Eelious (10-1). 11 ran. 3l, 3l. L Cumani. Tote: £3.40; £1.30, £6.70, £2.90. DF: £36.30. Trio: £177.60. CSF: £88.23.

5.25 (7f) 1, Blockade (M Fenton, 13-2); 2, Sharp Rebuff (3-1 fav); 3, Narbonne (20-1). 14 ran. 2½l, 2½l. M Bell. Tote: £6.40; £2.40, £1.80, £3.90. DF: £6.20. Trio: £69.80. CSF: £25.44.

Placepot: £100.30. Quadpot: £6.60.

Thirsk

Going: good to firm

2.00 (1m 4f) 1, Elementary (J Stack, 7-4 fav); 2, Shabanaz (5-2); 3, Pharamineux (11-4). 10 ran. 5l, 2l. N Walker. Tote: £2.60; £1.20, £1.50, £1.20. DF: £4.70. Trio: £2.40. CSF: £6.58.

2.30 (1m) 1, Ikhtisab (S Whitworth, 20-1); 2, [illegible] (6-4); 3, Northern Trove (33-1). Sicolous 4-7 fav. 11 ran. NR: Life's A Dance. 1¾l, ¾l. E Dunlop. Tote: £26.40; £2.50, £1.70, £6.50. DF: £31.90. Trio: not won (pool of £343.40 carried forward to 3.45 at Thirsk today). CSF: £126.91.

3.00 (6f) 1, Benzoe (K Fallon, 12-1); 2, Sabo (3-1 fav); 3, Ned's Bonanza (6-1); 4, Ele-Stepped (11-1). 17 ran. 1¾l, 3½l. Mrs J Ramsden. Tote: £16.80; £2.80, £1.50, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £22.80. Trio: £109.60. CSF: £50.81. Tricast: £233.82.

3.30 (5f) 1, Lady Sheriff (L Charnock, 7-1); 2, Superpride (9-1); 3, Shadow Jury (10-1). Cool Edge 11-4 fav. 13 ran. 1¾l, hd. M W Easterby. Tote: £11.80; £3.10, £2.90, £3.40. DF: £129.70. Trio: £200.20. CSF: £72.59. Tricast: £803.46. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.00 (7f) 1, Rushen Raider (A Daly, 100-30 fav); 2, Dante's Rubicon (7-1); 3, Gant Bleu (7-1). 10 ran. Sh hd, 2l. K Hogg. Tote: £5.80; £2.00, £2.80, £3.80. DF: £18.10. Trio: £75.10. CSF: £28.36.

4.30 (1m) 1, Sheema (B Thomson, 3-1); 2, Dance King (8-1); 3, Trazl (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 3l, ¾l. W Jarvis. Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £1.80, £1.40. DF: £10.10. CSF: £26.81.

5.05 (7f) 1, Veloce (J Fortune, 8-11 fav); 2, Okay Baby (9-2); 3, Red River Rose (7-1). 8 ran. 1¾l, 1½l. A Bailey. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £2.50. Trio: £7.60. CSF: £5.13.

5.35 (2m) 1, Shadirwan (B Thomson, 13-8 fav); 2, Argyle Cavalier (3-1); 3, Thunderheart (4-1). 5 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. R Akehurst. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £6.47.

Placepot: £451.80. Quadpot: £4.80.

Thursday night's late details

Aintree

Going: good to firm (firm in places)

5.45 (3m 1f) 1, Proud Sun (Mr M Felton, 2-5 fav); 2, San Remo (11-1); 3, Doris Blake (66-1). 7 ran. 4l, 8l. S Pike. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £4.90. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.15.

6.15 (2m 4f) 1, Royal Citizen (D Byrne, Evens fav); 2, Plassy Boy (6-1); 3, Nayaka (10-1). 7 ran. 5l, 10l. J Bottomley. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £3.00. DF: £6.50. CSF: £6.99.

6.45 (3m 1f) 1, Greenhill Raffles (G McCourt, 11-10); 2, Side Of Hill (14-1). Straight Talk 10-11 fav. 3 ran. NR: Diamond Fort. Dist. P Hobbs. Tote: £1.80. DF: £3.10. CSF: £7.14. Only 2 finished.

7.15 (2m 110yd) 1, Eden's Close (D Bridgwater, 11-2); 2, Lustrino (6-1); 3, Colossus of Roads (13-2). Captain Khedive 4-1 jt-fav. 7 ran. ½l, 2l. M Tompkins. Tote: £5.60; £2.90, £2.50. DF: £18.40. CSF: £32.57.

7.45 (2m 4f) 1, Country Picture (C Llewellyn, 11-8 fav); 2, Chalie Richards (8-1); 3, Longshoreman (5-1). 5 ran. NR: Counterbalance. 5l, sh hd. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £2.00. DF: £6.60. CSF: £10.61.

8.15 (2m) 1, De Jordaan (N Smith, 4-1); 2, Time Won't Wait (5-4 fav); 3, Circulation (33-1). 5 ran. 5l, 8l. W Cunningham. Tote: £5.20; £2.20, £1.20. DF: £4.20. CSF: £9.29.

8.45 (2m 110yd) 1, Distant Echo (S McNeill, 11-10 fav); 2, Spanish Light (15-8); 3, Keal Row (9-2). 5 ran. 10l, 12l. D Arbuthnot. Tote: £2.30; £1.50, £1.60. DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.69.

Placepot: £63.00. Quadpot: £90.70.

Folkestone

Going: good (good to firm in places)

6.00 (2m 5f) 1, Counterbid (Miss Z Turner, 9-4); 2, Trust The Gypsy (7-4 fav); 3, Profligate (10-1). 7 ran. NR: Muskerry Miss. 4l, 8l. J Turner. Tote: £2.80; £1.60, £1.70. DF: £2.60. CSF: £5.92.

6.30 (3m 2f) 1, Rightsaidfred (Mr P Bull, 6-4 fav); 2, St Laycar (5-1); 3, Berrings Dasher (11-2). 10 ran. 3l, 3½l. Miss A Newton-Smith. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.70, £1.70. DF: £7.70. Trio: £14.50. CSF: £8.77.

7.00 (3m 7f) 1, Doonloughan (Miss S Vickery, 7-2); 2, Emsee-H (9-1); 3, Smooth Escort (5-1). Sneakapenny 5-2 fav (f). 9 ran. 8l, 3l. G Balding. Tote: £3.80; £2.10, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £15.80. Trio: £17.30. CSF: £30.81.

7.30 (2m 5f) 1, Eagle Bid (Mr T McCarthy, 4-7 fav); 2, Drewitts Dancer (20-1); 3, Sandford Orcas (10-1). 11 ran. 29l, 8l. Mrs D McCarthy. Tote: £1.60; £1.80, £5.70, £2.50. DF: £16.90. Trio: £155.60. CSF: £14.29.

8.00 (2m 5f) 1, No Inhibitions (Mr A Warr, 4-5 fav); 2, Beach Tiger (9-4); 3, Hunza's Choice (4-1). 4 ran. 16l, 12l. Mrs S Warr. Tote: £1.90. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.89.

8.30 (3m 2f) 1, Hermes Harvest (Mr A Balding, 4-6 fav); 2, Mighty Frolic (7-4); 3, Sonofagipsy (6-1). 3 ran. 3l, nk. D Williams. Tote: £1.80. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.13.

Placepot: £9.80. Quadpot: £3.30.

THUNDERER
6.10 Must Be Magical. 6.40 Inconclusive. 7.10 Turpin's Green. 7.40 Scud Missile. 8.10 River Melody. 8.40 Dark Nightingale.

Brian Beel: 6.40 Inconclusive. 8.10 River Melody.

GOING: GOOD SIS

6.10 KLFM RADIO SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,753: 2m) (14 runners)

1 -441 SALMAN 14 (CD,F,G) Mrs V Ward 9-12-0 R Davis
2 1144 MUST BE MAGICAL 15 (D,F,S) P Bradley 7-11-5 B Harding (5)
3 F/0 SCARLET EXPRESS 21 (CD,G,S) M Brittain 8-10-13 D Bridgwater
4 1P/ ALWAYS ALEX 980 (F,G) J Allen 8-10-9 Gary Lyons
5 F-04 SODA POPINSKI 12 (D,G) J L Harris 7-10-7 D Gallagher
6 P302 INZAR 33 W Musson 4-10-6 P Hide
7 2000 CYRILL HENRY 7 (F,G) P Widdowson 6-10-4 C Maude
8 02F0 LORCANJO 7 D Carey 4-10-1 A P McCoy
9 5015 WATER DIVINER 21 (CD,F,G) K Wingrove 5-10-1 J Ryan
10 0006 ROGER'S PAL 14 (V,D,G,S) A Moore 8-10-0 I Lawrence
11 6400 LUCY TUFTY 5 J Pearce 4-10-0 M Brennan
12 0860 SPANISH WHISPER 64 (CD,G,S) J Bostock 8-10-0 J Supple (3)
13 PPF0 GRAND SALT 33 M Haynes 4-10-0 D Skyrme
14 P-60 HARD TO BET 15 (B,D,G) M Barraclough 8-10-0 Ann Stokell

11-4 Salman, 7-2 Must Be Magical, 5-1 Water Diviner, 6-1 Inzar, 8-1 Soda Popinski, Lorcanjo, 10-1 Roger's Pal, 12-1 others.

6.40 HOOD, VORES AND ALLWOOD HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,566: 3m 110yd) (9)

1 2242 DUNCAN 10 (F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 10-12-8 B Pollock (7)
2 U111 RICHARD HUNT 21P (D,F,G,S) V Rowe 11-12-4 Miss L Rowe (7)
3 5443 AS YOU WERE 2 (D,F,G) J Abbott 13-11-12 D Parravani (7)
4 P2F1 CHERRY CHAP 7P (F,G) J Ibbott 10-11-12 Miss L Hollis (7)
5 6221 INCONCLUSIVE 41P (G,S) Miss K Bramall 8-11-12 D Parker (3)
6 PPP4 MAN OF THE WEST 8 (G,S) M Gingell 12-11-12 M Gingell (7)
7 4P12 MR GOSSIP 7P (G,S) D Wales 13-11-12 W Wales (5)
8 6426 SAINT BENE'T 45 (F) G Prodromou 7-11-12 A Coe (7)
9 6315 WAY OF LIFE 8 (G,S) Mrs G Hay 10-11-12 J Ferguson (7)

5-2 Richard Hunt, 3-1 Duncan, 4-1 Inconclusive, 8-1 Saint Bene't, 10-1 As You Were, Cherry Chap, Man Of The West, 12-1 Way Of Life, 16-1 others.

7.10 PRINCE OF WALES CUP (Handicap chase: £4,031: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

1 5006 ADRIEN 19 (S) Mrs S Bramall 7-11-10 Mr D Parker (3)
2 2241 CHICHELL'S HURST 33 (F,S) Mrs P Sly 9-11-10 R Marley
3 34P2 ABLE PLAYER 12P (B,F,G,S) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-10 J Burke
4 51F6 CZERMINO 17 (F,G) M Lloyd 12-11-3 Miss J Priest (7)
5 F4U0 WAR COUNSEL 7 (B,S) Mrs D Haine 7-11-3 D Bridgwater
6 831U TURPIN'S GREEN 7 (D,F,G) J King 12-10-12 R Dunwoody
7 15F4 PEGMARINE 12 (S) Mrs A Woodrow 12-10-9 J A McCarthy
8 3431 MAGSOOD 12 (V,F,G) J Mullins 10-10-5 S Curran (3)
9 4532 MISS FERN 7 (F,G,S) R Dickin 10-10-4 D Meredith
10 -53-P DANRIBO 7P (F,G) John Whyte 12-10-0 G Hogan (5)

3-1 Chichell's Hurst, 7-2 Magsood, 9-2 Miss Fern, 5-1 Turpin's Green, 8-1 War Counsel, 10-1 Able Player, Pegmarine, 16-1 others.

7.40 HARRIS KAFTON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,069: 2m 7f 110yd) (11)

1 P420 WASHINGTON HEIGHTS 7 (B,F,G) C Mann 8-12-0 A Thornton
2 3512 SCUD MISSILE 14 (F) G Johnson Houghton 4-11-7 G Hogan (5)
3 -322 LAUGHING GAS 12 (BF) Mrs N Macauley 6-11-3 R Dunwoody
4 PP61 SOLOMAN SPRINGS 12 (V,F) Mrs V Ward 5-11-3 R Davis
5 5151 POLDEN PRIDE 14 (F) G Balding 7-10-10 A P McCoy
6 0026 STORMTRACKER 21 C Weedon 6-10-9 Peter Hobbs
7 4416 DOCK OF THE BAY 259 (F) P McBride 5-10-6 D Bridgwater
8 -001 MEDIATOR 14 (V,F) A Moore 6-10-5 I Lawrence
9 5P51 MILL O'THE RAGS 5 (F) Mrs D Haine 6-10-3 (7ex) J F Titley
10 000P DENAUL'S MAESTRO 12 (B) Mrs D Haine 7-10-0 D Gallagher
11 0PP- BE THE BEST 546 John Whyte 7-10-0 M Hourigan

3-1 Polden Pride, 7-2 Laughing Gas, 4-1 Scud Missile, 6-1 Mill O'The Rags, 7-1 Washington Heights, Stormtracker, 10-1 Soloman Springs, 12-1 others.

8.10 NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,675: 2m 5f 110yd) (8)

1 P242 BRUFF CASTLE 12P (B) D Claydon 8-12-7 A Coe (7)
2 U0F3 COUTURE QUALITY 7P (F,G,S) Mrs J Read 9-12-7 R Wakley (7)
3 2421 HORACE 7P (F,G,S) Mrs A Vaughan-Jones 10-12-7 Miss L Rowe (7)
4 U212 JUST JACK 21P (F,S) P Jonason 9-12-7 Simon Andrews (3)
5 5241 MASTER TREASURE 12P (F,G) R Wilson 13-12-7 Mrs L Gibbon (3)
6 FPP2 PAMELA'S LAD 17 (G,S) M Lloyd 9-12-7 G Hanmer (7)
7 U5SP RYDERS WELLS 21P (F) Mrs M Morris 8-12-7 Mrs M Morris (7)
8 3121 RIVER MELODY 7P (F,G,S) M Jecam 8-12-2 T Moore (7)

2-1 River Melody, 5-2 Pamela's Lad, 7-2 Horace, 10-1 Ryders Wells, Couture Quality, 12-1 Bruff Castle, 16-1 others.

8.40 TOPCLEAN NOVICES HURDLE (£2,552: 2m 4f) (9)

1 P003 JOHN TUFTY 12 (G) J Pearce 4-11-4 M Brennan
2 P5 AMAAM AMAAM 17 W Musson 5-11-3 J F Titley
3 0304 AKAMON 33 M Haynes 5-11-3 D Skyrme
4 6-6 BALNAGOWN 21 H Collingridge 7-11-3 D Bridgwater
5 6503 BEE MOY DO 23 G Balding 7-11-3 A P McCoy
6 00 PRIME COURSE 37 E Farrant 6-11-3 R Rowell
7 0220 PRIME OF LIFE 70 J Eustace 5-11-3 S McNeill
8 5P0B DARK NIGHTINGALE 145 O Sherwood 5-10-12 J Osborne
9 PIP'S DREAM 18F M Ryan 4-10-6 J Ryan

11-4 Bee Moy Do, 7-2 Prime Of Life, 4-1 Dark Nightingale, 7-1 Balnagown, Akamon, 10-1 Amaam Amaam, 12-1 others.

☐ Clive Brittain, the Newmarket trainer, seeks for a double at Longchamp tomorrow with Cedez le Passage and Soldier's Leap. Frèderic Sanchez will ride both runners.

BANGOR

THUNDERER
11.35 Russian Empire. 12.05 Solar Green. 12.35 Faal Mario. 1.05 Katie's Joker. 1.35 Bold Acre. 2.10 Blustery Fellow. 2.40 Silver Shred.

Brian Beel: 12.05 Solar Green.

GOING: GOOD SIS

11.35 SIOP Y CYMRO NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,934: 2m 4f) (16)

1 D031 G'IME A BUZZ 12 (V,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-10 R Dunwoody
2 22/0 INSTIGATE 26 (F) J Edwards 7-11-5 M A Fitzgerald
3 423P KASAYID 75 R Dickin 8-11-2 D Meredith
4 1053 GYMCRAK TIGER 35 (B,G) G Holmes 5-11-0 L Wyer
5 4322 RUTLAND GATE 3 (BF,G) Mrs J R-Barons 8-11-0 R Greene
6 5P22 SOUTH WESTERLY 35 Mrs M Reveley 7-11-0 P Niven
7 2/1 SNOW BOARD 14 (D,F) Mrs A Swinbank 6-10-10 J Railton
8 13P0 ALASKAN HEIR 21 (D,G,S) A Forbes 4-10-9 T Eley (3)
9 0142 RUSSIAN EMPIRE 14 (F) N Walker 5-10-8 C Llewellyn
10 003 BAYBELLINA 26 R Buckler 4-10-4 B Powell
11 0253 TRECENTO 31 J Mackie 4-10-1 W Marston
12 6053 SEYMOUR SPY 26 Mrs A Hewitt 6-10-0 S Wynne
13 P043 LYPHARD'S FABLE 17 T George 4-10-0 T Jenks
14 0-P0 RYTHMIC RYMER 24 (V) J Jefferson 5-10-0 M Newton (7)
15 0000 RAVENSPUR 15 Mrs F Owen 5-10-0 J R Kavanagh
16 0230 VERRO 16F K Bishop 8-10-0 L Harvey

5-1 Snow Board, 6-1 G'ime A Buzz, Russian Empire, South Westerly, 7-1 Gymcrak Tiger, 8-1 Rutland Gate, Baybellina, 10-1 others.

12.05 NORTH WEST POINT-TO-POINT FINAL HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,840: 3m 110yd) (16)

1 1111 MY NOMINEE 15 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-12-10 A Griffith (7)
2 38U1 SOLAR GREEN 14P (F,G,S) S Brookshaw 10-12-7 S Brookshaw (5)
3 51F4 ALBERT BLAKE 10 (S) T Kinsey 8-12-3 R Thomas (7)
4 0220 BALDA BOY 10 (D,G,S) R Bevis 11-12-3 R Bevis (7)
5 1P42 BARKIN 14P (B,D,F,G,S) M Mullineaux 12-12-3 R Ford (7)
6 0221 DAMERS CAVALRY 13P (V,D,F,G) R Burgess 12-12-3 Miss C Burgess (7)
7 1133 MR TITTLE TATTLE 12P (B,D,F) R Crank 9-12-3 D Barlow (7)
8 PP22 OVER THE STYX 12P M Edwards 10-12-3 M Worthington (7)
9 2111 REAL CLASS 28P (CD,F,G,S) R Aston 12-12-3 J Evans (7)
10 2412 RENARD QUAY 12P (F,G,S) R Aston 12-12-3 Miss C Wilberforce (7)
11 22PP ROYLE BURCHLIN 14P (S) M Mullineaux 9-12-3 C Barlow (7)
12 423R RU VALENTINO 10 (D,F,G) M Lloyd 11-12-3 G Hanmer (7)
13 P112 RYTON GUARD 12P (F,G) G Barlow 10-12-3 J Barlow (7)
14 R3U1 SIMPLY PERFECT 21P (G,S) J Swindells 9-12-3 Miss S Swindells (7)
15 -252 STORM WARRIOR 12P (B,G) Mrs J Wall 10-12-3 S Joynes (7)
16 PP13 PLAYFUL JULIET 21P (B,G,S) J Hewitt 7-11-12 R Burton (7)

11-4 Solar Green, 4-1 My Nominee, 5-1 Balda Boy, 7-1 Real Class, 8-1 others.

12.35 8 KING STREET CHAMBERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,864: 2m 1f) (13)

1 4-2 BIETSCHHORN BARD 211 D Gandolfo 5-11-3 M Dwyer
2 5443 BONE SETTER 28 S Mellor 5-11-3 M Perrett
3 0-0 CORRIB SONG 128 T Forster 6-11-3 R Farrant
4 -PP0 DISTANT MILL 7 R Dickin 7-11-3 D Meredith
5 6/3 DREAM CARRIER 12 J O'Shea 7-11-3 G Lee (5)
6 U05/ ERBNY 795 J Quinn 6-11-3 R Marley
7 3054 FAR EAST 33 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 6-11-3 R Greene
8 000 JENARK PHAUL 54 J Mackie 5-11-3 T Eley (3)
9 U23 MAJBOOR YAFOOZ 5F (BF) J Bosley 5-11-3 M Bosley
10 RAINBOW WALK 58F J O'Shea 5-11-3 M A Fitzgerald
11 P/P0 COUNTRY KIZZIE 21 N Tinck 6-10-12 W Humphreys
12 6 FAAL MARIO 12F Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-12 R Garritty
13 50 ROBERT'S TOY 145 M Pipe 4-10-12 R Dunwoody

5-2 Bietschhorn Bard, 7-2 Majboor Yafooz, 4-1 Rainbow Walk, 5-1 others.

1.05 SAFFERY CHAMPNESS NOVICES CHASE (£3,761: 2m 1f 110yd) (9)

1 F351 FINAL ACE 12 (F) Mrs A Price 8-11-11 Jodie Mogford
2 5-1F THISTLE PRINCESS 18 (CD,F) G Richards 8-11-6 DOUBTFUL
3 0-03 BRIGGS LAD 14 (B,F) D Dutfield 8-11-4 T Eley
4 4553 HIGHLAND POACHER 15 (V,S) D McCain 8-11-4 D McCain
5 0464 KATIE'S JOKER 7 D O'Neill 9-11-4 M A Fitzgerald
6 P-PP MIGHTY MERC 21 (F) Mrs B Broad 7-11-4 R Farrant
7 PP2P MANDA MOON 21 (F) A Barrow 8-11-4 B Powell
8 0-05 SUPER SHARP 8 (G) H Oliver 7-11-4 Jacqui Oliver
9 4PF2 HENNERWOOD OAK 12 R Price 5-10-7 P McLoughlin

11-8 Final Ace, 11-4 Briggs Lad, 7-2 Super Sharp, 10-1 others.

1.35 WIN WITH THE TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,420: 2m 1f) (7)

1 6216 NOBLELY 21 (D,F,G) N Walker 8-11-10 B Powell
2 0513 PREROGATIVE 33 (V,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-7 R Dunwoody
3 0403 MALIHABAD 21 (G) R Hollinshead 6-11-2 S Wynne
4 1019 BOLD ACRE 29 (CD,S) D Burchell 5-10-13 D J Burchell
5 3-65 MONTY ROYALE 47 (BF,G) J Jefferson 6-10-9 M Dwyer
6 5003 AMBASSADOR ROYALE 7 (F,G) Miss A Broyd 7-10-9 M A Fitzgerald
7 0302 GOLDINGO 8 (D,S) G Price 8-10-8 Guy Lewis (5)

3-1 Noblely, 4-1 Ambassador Royale, Prerogative, Bold Acre, 5-1 others.

2.10 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£3,111: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 2433 ELITE REG 33 (B,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 6-11-13 R Dunwoody
2 -4PP LE PICCOLAGE 80 (D,F,G,S) C Cowley 11-11-9 Mr C Barlow (7)
3 5F11 BALLY PARSON 8 (D,F,G) R Dickin 9-11-8 D Meredith
4 4F-3 J J JIMMY 23 (F,G,S) S Christian 11-11-1 G Upton
5 23P2 BLUSTERY FELLOW 12 (D,F,G) N T-Davies 10-10-12 C Llewellyn
6 3045 BUCKS SURPRISE 12 (CD,G) J Mackie 7-10-10 W Marston
7 23P4 PRUDENT PEGGY 23 (S) R Frost 8-10-8 J Frost
8 -433 ALDINGTON BELL 12 (B,D,F) C Trietline 12-10-0 M A Fitzgerald
9 45P3 BOSSBURG 9 (V,S) D McCain 8-10-0 T Jenks

6-4 Bally Parson, 9-4 Elite Reg, 4-1 Blustery Fellow, 5-1 others.

2.40 TANNERS CHAMPAGNE MARES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,945: 2m 1f) (18)

1 1 COOLE HILL 7 (G) D Nicholson 4-11-3 R Massey (5)
2 1 SILVER SHRED 14 (F) A Barrow 4-11-3 O Burrows (5)
3 040 ANGLESEY SEA VIEW 14 A Bailey 6-11-1 T Kent
4 BELLE BARONESS J McConochie 5-11-1 R Bellamy
5 0 FAIR VENUS 14 B De Haan 5-11-1 G Upton
6 R FLIGHTS LANE 20P R Frost 5-11-1 J Frost
7 00 LANDSKER STAR 49 F Hollis 5-11-1 D Salter (5)
8 LISRAINY CASTLE D McCain 5-11-1 D McCain
9 ONE MORE DIME J Needham 5-11-1 J R Kavanagh
10 0 RUGRAT 14 B Preece 5-11-1 T Wall
11 RR SEYMOURSWIFT 28P B Preece 5-11-1 Mr R Bevis (7)
12 0 STATFOLD SOLVA 14 P Hewitt 6-11-1 T Eley (3)
13 0 VISION OF LIGHT 7 H Oliver 5-11-1 Jacqui Oliver
14 300 VOOLINO 7 Mrs J Renfree-Barons 5-11-1 R Greene
15 CAUTIOUS LEADER B Preece 4-10-10 G Robertson (7)
16 60 HYMOSS 14 M Pipe 4-10-10 Mrs A Bryan
17 MAC'S AFFAIR J O'Shea 4-10-10 G Lee (5)
18 0 STORMHILL AMAZON 21 T Tate 4-10-10 R Garritty

6-4 Coole Hill, 5-2 Silver Shred, 10-1 Voolino, 12-1 others.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
11.50 Astral Invasion. 12.20 Dawn Chance. 12.50 Baylord Prince. 1.20 Powder Boy. 1.50 Dawn Flight. 2.20 Bright Burns. 2.50 Highland Spin.
Brian Beel: 2.20 Bright Burns.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

11.50 MOORHOUSE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,406: 2m) (8 runners)

1 6021 ASTRAL INVASION 14 (V,D,F) W Clay 11-5 Diane Clay
2 1 NEW INN 7 (D,F) E Weymes 11-5 D Bentley
3 6440 VICEROY RULER 28 (D,G) J Jenkins 11-5 J Osborne
4 06 BAYOU 89 D Robinson 10-12 M Robinson
5 0 KABANCY 21 D Chapman 10-12 A S Smith
6 PRINCE SKYBURD 640F M Avison 10-12 D Bridgwater
7 000 TARD CARD 21 (B) R Woodhouse 10-12 D Gallagher
8 60P YER 'UMBLE 38 J Cresswell 10-12 W McFarland

4-5 New Inn, 9-4 Astral Invasion, 7-1 Viceroy Ruler, 16-1 others.

12.20 TRAFALGAR HOUSE CONSTRUCTION MINING NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,924: 2m) (6)

1 0-D4 COME ON DANCER 93F J White 7-11-10 D Bridgwater
2 25UP PENNINE PASS 38 (V) D Williams 6-11-10 A P McCoy
3 P324 DAWN CHANCE 11 (B) R Hodges 9-11-7 A Tory
4 5333 NUCLEAR EXPRESS 7 J Bradley 8-11-4 A Thornton
5 0P2P CONBRIO STAR 14 (V) Miss C Caroe 5-11-0 I Lawrence
6 664P MABTHUL 7 (F) R Juckes 7-10-12 P Holley

7-4 Come On Dancer, 2-1 Dawn Chance, 3-1 Nuclear Express, 7-1 others.

12.50 KELHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,553: 3m 110yd) (8)

1 2-50 AUTHORSHIP 21 (C,F,G) W Musson 9-11-10 J Supple
2 2P03 MASTER OF THE ROCK 14 (V,G,F,G,S) J Mackie 6-11-4 D Webb (7)
3 65-P FIGHT TO WIN 7 (V,F,G) C Broad 7-11-3 G Hogan
4 0464 RUSTINO 14 (D,G,S) W Cunningham 9-11-1 W Fry (3)
5 5200 MR DICK 35 M H Easterby 5-10-9 F Leahy
6 B014 BAYLORD PRINCE 11 (F,S) Miss J Eyer 7-10-0 Sophie Mitchell (3)
7 3063 DOCTOR DUNKLIN 12 (V,F) Mrs V Ward 6-10-0 A P McCoy
8 F/0 CORPORATE MEMBER 15 G Barnett 8-10-0 –

11-4 Master Of The Rock, 3-1 Mr Dick, 7-2 Authorship, 5-1 others.

1.20 EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,936: 3m 110yd) (10)

1 5P5 THE TARTAN SPARTAN 33 (CD,F,S) M Wilkinson 11-12-0 R Supple
2 3012 POWDER BOY 12 (D,F,G) R Hodges 10-11-7 A Tory
3 -PPU K C'S DANCER 154 (F,S) R Dickin 10-11-6 A P McCoy
4 2323 LIE DETECTOR 33 (B) O Sherwood 7-11-4 J Osborne
5 232- LINGHAM MAGIC 12P (BF,F,G,S) J Suders 10-11-3 Mr S Suders
6 5-U5 SAILOR'S DELIGHT 7 (F,G) K Wingrove 11-10-9 J Ryan
7 1PP0 CROWN EYEGLASS 9 (G,S) R Woodhouse 9-10-3 D Gallagher
8 F204 MIRAGE DANCER 35 (F) Miss C Caroe 12-10-1 I Lawrence
9 PP53 ASTON COURT 15 (B,S) B Ellison 10-10-0 D Bridgwater
10 0P24 LADY BLAKENEY 9 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 9-10-0 J Supple (3)

2-1 Powder Boy, 9-4 Lie Detector, 8-1 Aston Court, 14-1 others.

1.50 BASSINGHAM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,406: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 6221 HERESTHEDEAL 12 (C,F) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-8 G McCourt
2 P500 BELIEVE IT 63 N Waggott 6-11-2 S Taylor (7)
3 4P32 CHARTERFORHARDWARE 12 (S) W Clay 9-11-2 Diane Clay
4 5685 DAWN FLIGHT 97 J Jenkins 6-11-2 J Osborne
5 0522 KAIFOON 12 (V) P Pritchard 6-11-2 S Fox (5)
6 106P KEMYS COMMANDER 18 (B,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 10-11-2 D Bridgwater
7 60-6 BIBBY BEAR 14 G Kelly 6-10-11 Mr C Mulhall
8 023 CELTIC DAUGHTER 11 (B,BF) J Spearing 6-10-11 Mr M Rimell (5)
9 DEAR EMILY 12P J Swiers 7-10-11 Mr S Swiers
10 00-0 SIMONE STAR 7 J Parkes 6-10-11 R McCarthy (7)
11 00 SPRINGFIELD MISS 17 C Pinney 5-10-11 Mrs F Needham

5-2 Celtic Daughter, 11-4 Herestthedeal, 3-1 Kaifoon, 6-1 others.

2.20 THORP NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,844: 3m 110yd) (11)

1 4541 FINAL HOPE 14 (F,G,S) R Tate 7-12-7 Mrs F Needham (7)
2 PPPP ACERTAINHIT 17 (B,F,S) D Pritchard 11-12-0 D Pritchard (7)
3 2412 BRIGHT BURNS 49P (B,F,G,S) C Sweeting 10-12-0 Rupert Sweeting (7)
4 2125 COUTURE TIGHTS 10 (F,G,S) M Lloyd 10-12-0 A Phillips (7)
5 PP JAMARSAM 6P N Waggott 7-12-0 C Mulhall (7)
6 2131 PARK DRIFT 8P (F,G,S) G Thornton 9-12-0 C Bonner (5)
7 455P R N COMMANDER 13P (G) J Cornwall 9-12-0 J R Cornwall (7)
8 P14P ST GREGORY 20P (B,G,S) Mrs P Russell 7-12-0 W Burnell (7)
9 6432 BALLILAURENKA 20P Miss S French 7-11-9 Miss S French (7)
10 PUR5 PEPPERBOX 12P (S) Mrs C Forber 7-11-9 D Sherlock (7)
11 2PP4 STATFOLD PAM 13P (B,S) Miss S Baxter 12-11-9 Miss S Baxter (7)

6-4 Bright Burns, 7-2 Couture Tights, 5-1 Park Drift, 6-1 others

2.50 TRIPLEPRINT OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,329: 2m) (14)

1 030 BRADLOR PENNY 35 J Norton 5-11-3 W Fry (5)
2 0 FRADICANT 14 G Barnett 6-11-3 A P McCoy
3 0 GRASSTONE 8 M Elterby 6-11-3 J Callaghan
4 HATCHAM BOY D Nicholson 5-11-3 Mr R Johnson (7)
5 0 RISE ABOVE IT 38 M W Easterby 5-11-3 J Driscoll (7)
6 SWIFT POKEY D Williams 5-11-3 M Clarke (7)
7 0 TWEEDSWOOD 14 P Beaumont 5-11-3 R Supple
8 YOUR RISK S Christian 5-11-3 J Osborne
9 HIGHLAND SPIN Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12 R Hodge
10 25 JOSHUA'S VISION 33 T Etherington 4-10-12 G McCourt
11 MINI GUARD F Storey 4-10-12 B Storey
12 44 ON THE FLY 14 M Tompkins 4-10-12 P Maher (7)
13 GALATOBOUREKO Miss M Milligan 4-10-7 Mr C Bonner (5)
14 LAVARDA GIRL J A Harris 4-10-7 T Dascombe (7)

2-1 Hatcham Boy, 7-2 Highland Spin, 6-1 Your Risk, 8-1 Joshua's Vision, 12-1 On The Fly, Rise Above It, 14-1 others.

Saturday portrait: Duncan Ferguson, by Kevin McCarra

Striking figure whose career veers between violence and virtuosity

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

In January of this year a large and curiously shaped package arrived at Ibrox for Ally McCoist, whose first child had been born the previous day. The Rangers striker, a diligent prankster himself, feared a practical joke and handled it gingerly. Slowly unpeeling the wrapping, he eventually uncovered a giant royal blue teddy bear.

It came from Duncan Ferguson, the centre forward whose £4.2 million transfer from Rangers to Everton had been completed only the month before. The cuddly toy, sent by express delivery, was the first present the McCoists received for their baby boy. An image consultant might peddle this story in an attempt to persuade the public that Ferguson is nothing more than 6ft 3in of sentimental generosity.

Few would be convinced. After all, Santa Claus, unlike Ferguson, probably does not have four convictions against him for assault. Acts of kindness only accentuate the unpredictability of a player whose life seems to be composed of constant bedlam. On close inspection, a diary apparently crowded with impressive social engagements takes on sombre significance.

This afternoon he will meet Prince Charles. On Thursday there is an appointment with Sheriff Alexander Eccles. The heir to the throne is to present Ferguson with either a winner's or loser's medal after the Cup Final against Manchester United at Wembley, but the Sheriff may hand down a prison sentence in Glasgow. The player has been found guilty of butting John McStay in a match between Rangers and Raith Rovers in April 1994.

A term in jail could be followed by a 12-match ban, imposed by the Scottish Football Association and almost certain to be applied by the Football Association. After today, Everton's followers may see little more of him in 1995. There is not just a distant, if unfortunate, past to trouble his employers. Since moving to Merseyside, Ferguson has been sent off twice and banned from the roads for a year after a drink-driving offence.

And yet he continues to be treasured by Everton, a club that has always doted on its centre forwards. Ferguson, with winners in the league against Liverpool and Manchester United, easily stormed the supporters' affections. Although barely recovered from a hernia operation, he plays today virtually by popular demand. Joe Royle, the Everton manager, claimed: "He has the potential to be the best of the lot."

Ferguson would probably agree. "He's confident in the McCoist mould," Jim Duffy, the Dundee player-manager, said. Duffy marked the forward in derby matches when Ferguson was with Dundee United. "He talks to you all the time, telling you he's going to be first to the next 50-50 ball. Duncan has got the physical attributes to be intimidating, and I remember needing stitches for a cut after he caught me with one of those bony elbows. He is more skilful than the average big forward, though. His first touch is good and he is aware of people around him. In fact, at United and Rangers he was more keen on being involved in build-up.

> 'Although barely recovered from a hernia operation, he plays today by popular demand'

"I think that has changed at Everton. He realises now that he can also be very good when he is direct and goes in to win crosses and score. If you were his manager you'd be jumping every time the phone rang, but the players who cause you trouble during the week can be the ones who give the other team problems on a Saturday."

Soon after he joined Rangers in 1993, for £3.75 million, McCoist pretended to introduce Ferguson to a group of journalists. "Gentleman," he said, "my protégé." It was partly a visual gag — for the youthful ungainliness was an amusing counterpoint to McCoist's poise — but there was also a trace of truth. Ferguson was supposed to become a great Rangers forward. It did not happen.

You could almost find Ferguson by following the trail of frustrated coaches. Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, would love to cap him regularly, yet knows Ferguson has still to score after five internationals. Comparisons are withering. Alan Shearer, of Blackburn Rovers, is, at 24, just a year older than Ferguson but far removed in accomplishment. The Scot has proved a mighty handicap to himself, although in some respects he seems so very normal. The ties with family and his hometown of Stirling are strong.

Jim McInally, the Dundee United midfield player, recalled that in the early days at Tannadice, Ferguson's father was the only person the youngster would dread discovering some indiscretion. He also remains close to his mother and sisters, one of whom works, ironically, in the prison service. Ferguson is determined not to abandon the past, and a girlfriend, Jolene Boyle, still comes down from Stirling, by taxi, to visit him.

The player's hobbies, too, are unaltered. Beside his new home in the Lancashire village of Rufford stands a deluxe pigeon loft, reportedly built at a cost of £20,000. "Must have done wonders for property values," one sarcastic manager said on hearing of Ferguson's arrival in a sedately prosperous area. Others, however, would insist that he is ideal next-door neighbour material.

McInally remembers that at a gathering of the Scotland squad in 1992 Ferguson spent £45 on three trays of steak sandwiches just because he thought a few of the players looked peckish. That episode may provide the key to him. Ferguson is the sort of person whose every impulse is immediately converted to action. There can be dividends. The intensity, for example, drove him to train furiously in the summer of 1989 and turn himself from a weedy teenager into a powerful figure.

There is, however, no time to spare for reflection. Provocations, real or imagined, lead to violence. In separate incidents at taxi ranks he has butted a policeman and attacked a person on crutches. Ferguson hardly seemed to realise that footballers, especially in the west of Scotland, must learn to be unobtrusive. His rashness is unremitting and almost carries a certain panache. So vertical a man has all the more need of a low profile, but, emerging from court ten days ago, he got into a Ford Probe with the licence number FRGIE. The war on common sense continues.

Although it brings some amusement, there is greater harm to those caught up in the turbulence. The incident with McStay did little physical damage to the Raith man and may have been the subject of a police report only because of Ferguson's notoriety. Nonethless, the attention ruined McStay's career. Having previously been freed by the Fife club, he was this week released by Clydebank.

Around Ferguson there has been too much distress. While he and his agent, Dennis Roach, were trying to engineer a transfer from Dundee United in 1993, press stories appeared complaining of the supposedly poor conditions at his club digs. As newspapers bristled with allegations, the landlord, Jack Shepherd, much respected by other United players, died suddenly, aged 76.

Nobody says it was Ferguson's fault. All the same, regrets are too frequent in the lives of himself and those with whom he comes into contact. Long ago, a team-mate brooded that a spell in jail might "save" Ferguson. There is scant evidence that prison carries any such redemptive power but, whatever happens, the Scot needs to change. Will he learn that there are instincts to be restrained and consequences to be understood?

The usual platitude hails a Wembley appearance as the most important day in a footballer's life. For Ferguson, in particular, this claim should be resisted. The decision of Sheriff Eccles next week and the significance, for good or ill, it acquires in one young man's life matter immeasurably more.

Southern-hemisphere powers present united front

New Zealand join alliance

From David Hands, rugby correspondent, in Durban

IN AN impressive display of harmony in the run-up to the rugby union World Cup, the three southern-hemisphere powers announced yesterday that they are to form a joint company to conduct their representative playing and commercial affairs. The unwritten implication of a statement issued in Cape Town is that Australia, New Zealand and South Africa expect an open game before the end of this year and they are preparing to take advantage of it.

Whether the new company, which will be run by David Moffatt, the chief executive of the New South Wales Rugby Union, and will comprise two directors from each country, will be able to sustain such harmony remains to be seen but one initial effect of the meeting yesterday is to put a block on New Zealand's apparent desire to sell the top end of their game to News Limited, the Australian arm of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, with whom they have been in negotiation.

It is also in contrast to the squabbling that has been apparent whenever the five nations come together at administrative level. "The most important thing is that before, each union has gone its own way and there has been no unity," Edward Griffiths, the chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu), said. "Now they are together and walking at the same pace."

Although the new company will not consider any competition that falls outside International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) regulations, it clearly anticipates change when the board meets in August in Paris, and it now also has an effective power base of its own from which to drive the representative game.

Louis Luyt, president of Sarfu, met Leo Williams, chairman of the Australian RFU, and Richie Guy, chairman of the New Zealand RFU council, in Cape Town and it must be presumed that Guy — who was elected to the chair only earlier this year — came under some pressure. It emerged earlier this week that he and his deputy, Rob Fisher, met representatives of News Limited in London and, in effect, offered the best of New Zealand rugby for sale.

"We outlined proposals for our season," Fisher told New Zealand Television in Wellington, "and told them what we have got to sell. Whether they want to buy it will be developed over the next week or so." But the statement from Cape Town yesterday stressed that the new company will conduct all commercial negotiations, which suggests at least that rugby administrators in Australia and South Africa want to keep control of the game.

A format for competitions at international and provincial levels has been agreed for 1996, details of which are likely to be made public before the conclusion of the World Cup next month. These will not affect New Zealand's tour to South Africa next summer, nor domestic competitions such as the Currie Cup or the Ranfurly Shield, but the clear aim is to provide a stream of high-profile representative matches, with substantial sponsorship and rewards for the players involved.

The contrast between rugby's haves and have-nots was emphasised by the valiant efforts Western Samoa has made to sponsor its team in South Africa. A one-day telethon raised some £25,000 from a population of 170,000, half of whom are under 15, while another £12,000 came from Samoans living in Auckland.

England's first serious training of the tournament yesterday lasted little more than half an hour for Dean Richards. The Leicester No 8 felt a hamstring injury that he acquired during the closing weeks of the domestic season.

In Johannesburg, Ireland denied suggestions that Gerry Murphy, their coach, had been dismissed. Ken Reid, the Irish Rugby Football Union president, said that a report in a Belfast newspaper was "rubbish and is the last thing we need in the build-up to the World Cup".

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MIKE HUTCHINGS

David Campese kicks during training yesterday

Departures should not divert the champions

By Christopher Irvine

THE departure of key players only strengthens Wigan. Significant as the farewells are to the Australasia-bound Betts, Botica and Clarke in tomorrow's rugby league Premiership final, the regenerative process will continue and should sustain the side's pre-eminence.

The same cannot be said of Leeds, who finished runners-up to Wigan in the championship and Challenge Cup. With Hanley injured, Schofield suspended, and both now expected to leave Headingley, it leaves a mix-and-match lineup at Old Trafford.

Innes is in the unfamiliar stand-off half berth alongside Holroyd. Mercer completes the midfield trio at loose forward.

On the last day of the last conventional season before the interim season and launch, next March, of the Super League, an era will end with Wigan accomplishing the one feat that has so far escaped them — a grand slam of the four domestic prizes — unless Leeds catch them cold, as they did St Helens in the semi-final.

That victory, from 6-20 down and a player short, said much about Leeds's resolve. But it will require the character absent from an abject Leeds display at Wembley three weeks ago if the yawning gap between first and second best is to be reduced tomorrow.

Offiah, with 53 tries for Wigan, is one ahead of Austin for the season, but the Australian centre will look to steal a march for Huddersfield in the second division final beforehand, although Keighley are the favourites to win their first final of any kind in 94 years.

LEEDS: A Tait; J Fallon, K Iro, P Hassan, F Cummins; C Innes, G Holroyd; H Howard, J Lowes, E Faimalo, G Mann, R Eyres, G Mercer.

WIGAN: H Paul; J Robinson, K Radlinski, G Connolly, M Offiah; F Botica, S Edwards; K Skerrett, M Hall, N Cowie, D Betts, A Farrell, P Clarke.

Atlanta's Olympic spirit meets redneck resistance

Simon Barnes

On Saturday

As hosts of the 1996 Olympic Games, the citizens of Atlanta have been doing a lot of thinking about the brotherhood of man. They have just made an utterly horrific discovery. There are some weird crazies about who think the brotherhood of man includes foreigners.

The flashpoint this time comes from Barrow County, and the tiny townlet of Windsor, 40 miles northeast of the city, and deep in redneck country. They have just heard that the Somalia track and field team will be training in Windsor before the Games.

At once, wild protests have erupted. The trigger has been a particularly vivid photograph of an American soldier's body being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu during recent troubles. Ali Osman Ali, secretary-general of the Somali Olympic Committee, said diplomatically: "If they don't want us there, we won't force it." The Windsor Chamber of Commerce plans to vote on the matter.

Inevitably, there is concern that the xenophobia — or, in redneck-speak, "patriotism" — could spread, and that the Somalia squad could end up without a home. Meanwhile, others are going through the atlas and counting furiously. If every country involved in the death of a United States soldier is banned from the Olympic Games, how many will be left when the Games begin?

Boy to Brazil

Now to the future of Diego. And it is not speculation, either. According to observers in Buenos Aires and Rio, the boy's future is signed and secured until 1997. He will move to Rio to play for Santos, which is Pelé's old club. The deal was brokered by Brazil's minister for sport, who is, of course, none other than Pelé himself. It is to be sponsored by Pelé's own sports goods firm. Diego is to move to Brazil in July, to start training for the Brazilian championship, which takes place between August and December. He will be able to play from September, by which time his ban, for playing in the World Cup while lit up like a Christmas tree, will have run its course. He will get $9 million (about £5.7 million), twice what Flamengo, eternal rivals of Santos, are paying Romario.

On thin ice

Gerald Ashby, who referees the big game this afternoon, had better look out. In the National Hockey League (NHL) in America, a referee has been fined for his crime of disallowing a goal. The NHL would not say how much, but the maximum is $2,500 (about £1,600). It all came about when Joe Sakic, of Quebec Nordiques, scored against the New York Rangers. The referee, Andy van Hellemond, had whistled a stoppage, for the trifling reason that Craig Wolanin, of Quebec, had just slashed Alexei Kovalev, of New York, leaving him motionless on the ice. Van Hellemond's decision was criticised as "a glaring error in judgment" and the referee was "reprimanded and disciplined for his error". The goal would have given Quebec a 3-0 lead but, instead, New York won 3-2, and went on to take the best-of-seven play-off series.

What's with this guy..? He's blown another stoppage
GED

Medal glut

We must, on this day of days, salute the footballer of the year. This column's nomination goes unequivocally to Sandor Gyalog. Gyalog is not only wonderfully named; he has won six footballing medals this season and surely nobody can top that. Last Saturday he scored the winner at Wembley for Arlesey Town as they beat Oxford City 2-1 in the FA Vase final. The following day, he received a winner's medal as his Sunday club, St Joseph's, won the Bedfordshire Sunday Cup.

The previous weekend, he was in the St Joseph's team that beat mighty B & A Scaffolding (another great name) in Hull to win the National Sunday Cup. St Joseph's also won the North Home Counties League championship, and the league's Whitbread Cup, while Arlesey also won the South Midlands League premier division. Gyalog, a midfield player and a plasterer, said: "I have never known such an amazing season. But in some ways, I'll be glad to get it over with. It'll be good to have a break. Then I can look forward to next season."

Human right

Unfair dismissal is one of cricket's eternal themes, but not everyone gets the court to agree. Remember Graham Yallop? He captained the official Australia side while the Packer pirates were doing their stuff. He has just won his case in an industrial relations court, claiming unfair dismissal after he was sacked for playing club cricket at weekends. His dismissal as manager of the National Watersports Centre was "harsh, unjust and unreasonable" and Yallop was awarded Aus $12,500 (about £6,000) in lost salary. Clearly, cricket is a basic human right.

مكبر من الأصل

Eleven cup final appearances are reward for Scot's versatility

Ferguson happy that McClair decided to stay

Peter Ball salutes a player who appears at Wembley today after a brave decision to battle his way back from the reserves

SOME distinguished players never reach a cup final. At Wembley this afternoon Brian McClair will be playing in his eleventh, which testifies to his durability as well as the quality which has illuminated his career with Celtic and Manchester United.

It will mark a significant comeback by the Scot. The tenth final, last year's 4-0 win over Chelsea in the FA Cup, when he came on as substitute late in the game to score United's fourth goal, could easily have marked his last major occasion in United's colours.

After being a regular in a championship-winning side he was promptly replaced by Roy Keane, and spent most of last season as a bit-part player for the double-winning team, starting only 12 Premiership games. For a player of 30, who had been a regular throughout his career, it was a difficult time.

He bore his disappointment with fortitude. "Well, you have to, don't you?" he said, philosophically. "I was the competition. I was the one who was keeping the players out there on their toes."

There were several inquiries for him during the summer, but after a talk with Alex Ferguson, he decided to stay and fight it out. He has had his reward, re-establishing himself as a regular member of the side. "Playing is the important thing, and I think I'm enjoying it all the more for having had virtually a year out,' he said.

The enjoyment shows. He has been one of United's most consistent performers in spite of moving position constantly in the interests of the team. He has played uncomplainingly in both central midfield positions, wide right, wide left, and as Mark Hughes's partner in attack.

"If I had stuck to one position I would have had a different career," he said. "But who is to say it would have been better? I might not have played in 11 cup finals." Since joining United in 1987, McClair has reached the finals of one European Cup Winners' Cup, three FA Cups and three League Cups while with Celtic he played in two Scottish Cup finals as well as two Scottish League Cup finals.

As well as being a consistent performer he is one of the core, along with the laid-back Pallister and Irwin and the bubbling Steve Bruce, who give the lie to United's unfortunate image. Bright and socially aware, he contributes a riveting diary to the United magazine, which is a wry guide to life at Old Trafford. J R (Jim Ryan, the reserve coach), Brucie, Kiddo and "our beloved manager" all figure in *The Life of Brian*, which is rapidly becoming acquiring cult status as compulsory reading in Manchester.

FA CUP

Told that if Peter Schmeichel failed to make a European match, he could be involved he commented: "Great. I've never played in goal before, but I am willing if the manager thinks I can do the job."

When Bruce, a regular sparring partner, visited the Football Association to appeal against a suspension McClair wrote: "Why was he trying to convince the FA that he should be shown some leniency — because he looks like Bernard Cribbins?"

He tells an involved tale of a friend who visited Thailand and met an old monk, who responded to the information that the friend came from Manchester by saying "ah, Cantona." McClair says: "She was flabbergasted, but maybe Eric studied under this monk in his youth."

His humour, however, is not seen much on the field, where his competitive streak takes over. Far from being sated, he insists that when today's final is over, he will be hungry for a twelfth. "While I'm still playing I've still got the appetite to win more."

That hunger was established early. "I was always jealous of my sisters because they went Irish dancing, and you got medals there for turning up, so I particularly enjoyed my first medal," he said.

That arrived at 14. He has gone on collecting them assiduously, the desire making him possibly Alex Ferguson's favourite player."Eric is his favourite player," McClair scoffed when the suggestion was put to him. "He probably likes me because I don't complain much. And I suppose I'm useful, the fact that I can play different positions, and come in and out, and maybe not perform brilliantly, but do a good enough job for the team."

Ferguson would put it more highly. "The running he has done in the last few weeks is unbelievable, he has been brilliant," Ferguson said. "He doesn't get too excited, or too upset, he's very good."

GARY WILLIAMS

McClair, Manchester United's jack of all trades and master of most of them

Parry's cheerful optimism masks football's plight

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

The football season ends with so many skeletons dangling, so many unresolved issues of sleaze and disrepute, that if those skeletons were to be hung from the pegs of a dressing-room wall, there would be plenty of reserves. Perhaps in the summer, when the Football Association (FA) perceives that the curiosity of the people has died down, authority will clean out its in-tray and deal with the matters.

Meanwhile, we can but admire the *chutzpah* of a press release from the Premier League, claiming that the 1994-95 season has been "fundamentally successful".

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, is a most diligent administrator. He has the optimism that is a prerequisite in his role. He has kept good accountancy, and has worked beyond the call of duty with his laborious attendance on the commission investigating the never-ending stream of allegedly bent transfer deals. One of those sittings found that George Graham had dealt improperly with Arsenal funds. He was sacked, the case was handed downstairs in Lancaster Gate to the FA, where it remains unresolved.

Similarly, the affair involving Bruce Grobbelaar, Hans Segers, and John Fashanu has become lodged somewhere between the Hampshire constabulary and Lancaster Gate; the very integrity of the sport, the question of whether matches were bought, remains in doubt.

One more skeleton looms in the failure of the FA to hear the case of disrepute against Roy Keane before the Cup Final, so diminishing any punishment that might have barred him from that prestigious day.

Also, we end the season on a sour note regarding the preservation of Aston Villa's Premiership status. One match two weeks ago was won by a goal blatantly fisted in by Villa's defender, Ugo Ehiogu. There was not a murmur of investigation from the rulers. Worse, Aston Villa then walked over Liverpool, whose manager, Roy Evans, was embarrassed enough to say that his team's performance had been "unacceptable", that his players had had "deckchairs" on their minds.

Yet it was Liverpool that roused Parry to eulogies. "The events of last weekend were a magnificent climax to the season," declared the chief executive. "In particular, the game at Anfield and the magnificent response of the fans and players made the event one of the truly unforgettable moments of the season."

Unforgettable, yes. But the real feeling was not of pride but *relief* that Liverpool had rediscovered their professional integrity, that Liverpool, responding to the outcry of the media, had played closer to their capacities to beat the new champions, Blackburn Rovers.

The total attendance at Premiership games this season — 11,213,371 — represents a rise of 20 per cent since its formation three seasons ago. Moreover, combined with the Endsleigh Insurance League, football has attracted more than 22 million spectators for the season, the first time that has happened since 1980.

'They will keep coming if football is played honestly'

They will keep coming only so long as football is played in an honest way, only so long as its government is open. Parry assures us that the Premier League rule book has been updated, with new codes of conduct covering players, clubs, managers and agents. This new code begins promptly in August.

All this is in no small measure due to his own efforts to gain consensus from 22 club chairmen who generally fight like cats and dogs; chairmen, moreover, who sow the seeds of instability, who created fear and impermanence in the "fundamentally successful" 1994-5 season, dispensing with the managers of 12 of the 22 elite clubs.

Unless the new code of conduct can restrain the chairmen, unless they put some acknowledgement of sporting values at least on a par with their business acumen and their greed, next season will be just as spiteful, just as recriminatory as this has been.

Chelsea join clubs bidding for Gascoigne's services

By Russell Kempson

PAUL GASCOIGNE, despite cruciate knee ligament damage, a broken leg and a continued penchant for all things childish, remains one of football's hottest properties. The fact that he has played little for Lazio in three years does not appear to have diminished his appeal or market value, with Chelsea yesterday becoming the latest suitors.

That Chelsea cannot be entirely sure of what they will get for their £4.5 million, plus the £20,000-a-week wages he will demand, has not deterred them from trying to poach the occasional England midfield player from the clutches of Rangers, the Scottish champions. Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, and Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, travelled to Rome with optimism, confident they could persuade Gascoigne to think again before pledging his future to the Ibrox club.

Matthew Harding, 41, the wealthy Chelsea director, will fund the audacious attempt, even though he has already spent £24 million on the redevelopment of Stamford Bridge and the securing of its freehold. "Like all nutcases, I've been following Chelsea for 32 or 33 years, and having the opportunity to help them has made me very happy," Harding said.

"This club is so close to having the chance to lift off, like it did 25 years ago, and if decent, quality players are available to make things happen, I will do as much as I can to help. I'm aware that Glenn and Colin are hoping to have a chat with Gascoigne but, until we know the outcome of that, we will just have to wait."

Harding, a likely successor to Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, is reputed to be worth an estimated £125 million but it may take more than money to lure Gascoigne back to England. He is reported to have a number of family problems back in his native North East and might prefer to move closer to home when he leaves Lazio.

However, when that will happen is far from certain. Len Lazarus and Mel Stein, Gascoigne's advisors, are keen that their client should be paid up for the remaining two years of his contract. Lazio have refused to consider what they feel is an outrageous request and the dispute rumbles on. Lazarus said: "There has been no agreement with Lazio and, until there has been one, there will be no decision about his future. He remains a Lazio employee."

☐ Ian Butterworth, the Norwich City defender, has been forced to retire because of a serious knee injury. Butterworth, 31, sustained the injury in a watersports accident last June.

The Final: Why Alex is going to hate Ferguson.

(Duncan to score first: 11/2.)

MAN UTD. v EVERTON

6/5 Man. Utd. 12/5 Everton 7/4 Draw

FA Cup Final Wembley. Live on BBC1. Kick-off 3.00pm.

First player to score		Correct Score		
11/2	Ferguson	7/1	Man. Utd. 1	Everton 0
6/1	Hughes	9/1	Man. Utd. 2	Everton 0
7/1	Amokachi	7/1	Man. Utd. 2	Everton 1
7/1	McClair	20/1	Man. Utd. 3	Everton 0
8/1	Rideout	16/1	Man. Utd. 3	Everton 1
12/1	Sharpe	50/1	Man. Utd. 4	Everton 0
14/1	Limpar	7/1	Man. Utd. 0	Everton 0
16/1	Irwin	11/2	Man. Utd. 1	Everton 1
16/1	Keane	14/1	Man. Utd. 2	Everton 2
25/1	Hinchcliffe	8/1	Man. Utd. 0	Everton 1
33/1	Pallister	16/1	Man. Utd. 1	Everton 2
33/1	D. Watson	25/1	Man. Utd. 1	Everton 3
7/1	No Goalscorer	28/1	Man. Utd. 2	Everton 3

Other prices on request.
Own goals do not count for first player to score.
All above bets: Extra time does not count.

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For the Final, Ladbrokes are favourite.

Australian win clinches series against England

A RESHAPED England side lost 3-1 to Australia in the fifth international hockey match yesterday at Melbourne, leaving the home side leading 4-0 with one match drawn and one to play at Brisbane today (Syndey Friskin writes). Australia went into the lead in the thirteenth minute with a goal by Davies, who increased their advantage in the 36th minute from a penalty stroke which was awarded for a foot infringement on the line.

England dominated the early minutes of the second half and came back into contention with a goal in the 52nd minute by Thompson. Hager, however, scored in the last minute to make Australia's win look more convincing.

Obree's successful pursuit

CYCLING: Graeme Obree, the world record-holder, riding his first significant international race of the year, stamped his authority on the World Cup 4,000 metres pursuit on the opening day of the 30-nation competition in Athens yesterday. Obree qualified fastest of the 18 riders, with a time of 4min 32.363sec, and went on to defeat Dietmar Muller, of Austria, in the final by 2.6sec, with a time of 4min 34.873sec.

García dies from injuries

BOXING: Jimmy García, the Colombian super-featherweight, died yesterday, nearly two weeks after suffering brain damage in a World Boxing Council title fight with Gabriel Ruelas. García, 23, had been on life-support systems at University Medical Centre, in Las Vegas. He collapsed after the contest was stopped in the eleventh round.

Faldo trails by three strokes

GOLF: Nick Faldo was three strokes off the lead after the first round of the Buick Classic in Harrison, New York, on Thursday. Doug Martin, of the United States, sank a four-foot putt for an eagle on the 18th hole to score a four-under-par 67 and take a one-stroke lead on a crowded leaderboard. There were 35 players within three strokes of Martin.

Hull powers into spotlight

POWERBOATING: The world 1.3-litre offshore championship will be held at Hull, starting on August 3. The three-race event will be the highlight of the Humber Grand Prix and Gold Cup, a round of the United Kingdom Boating Association championships, and has attracted a four-boat entry from South Africa.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

LAUSANNE: World mixed team championships: Group 1A: South Korea bt England 4-1. Group 7: Ukraine bt Wales 3-2.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: St Louis 4 San Francisco 2 (10 inns); Atlanta 3 Colorado 2; New York 8 Houston 1; Pittsburgh 7 Los Angeles 6.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: California 15 Minnesota 9; Boston 4 Cleveland 3; Baltimore 3 Detroit 2; Chicago 4 Oakland 2; Texas 6 Milwaukee 2; Kansas City 3 Seattle 2 (14 inns).

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Play-offs: Eastern Conference: Semi-final: Orlando 108 Chicago 102 (Orlando win series 4-2). Western Conference: Semi-finals: Houston 116 Phoenix 103 (series level 3-3). San Antonio 100 La Lakers 88 (San Antonio win 4-2).

CRICKET

SCHOOLS MATCHES: *Epsom 216, St Albans (SA) 147-8; Epsom 286-1 (N Hams 100 not out), St John's, Leatherhead 89; *Exeter 208, Exeter CC 169-6; Forty Club 209-8, *Lancing 212-0 (G Campbell 128 not out). Free Foresters 201-4, *Shrewsbury 206-9; Clayesmore 175-9, *Bryanston 176-8; *Ardingly 274-9 (G Best 112), Christ's Hosp 188-8; *Exeter 198-8dec, Wellington 65 (O Flemming 9-26); MCC 208-7dec, *Perse 110 (Duggan 8-25); St Albans 183, *Christ's Hosp. 187-9, *Worth 1912-8, Trent 194-1 (N Gie 122no).

*denotes home side

CYCLING

GIRO D'ITALIA: Seventh stage (218km, Taranto to Terme Luigiane): 1, M Fondriest (It) Lampre, 5hr 11min 50sec; 2, T Rominger (Switz) Mapei GB; 3, F Casagrande (It) Mercatone Uno, all same time; 4, P Ugrumov (Latvia) Gewiss Ballan, at 2sec; 5, F Simon (Fr) Castorama, at 5sec. Overall positions: 1, Rominger 29hr 13min 38sec; 2, Fondriest at 47sec; 3, Casagrande at 1:11, 4, E Berzin (Russ), Gewiss Ballan at 1.28, 5, Ugrumov at 1.38; 6, D Rebellin (It), Mapliflcio MG at 1:58

FOOTBALL

TOUR MATCH: Bridgetown: Barbados 0 Queens Park Rangers 2.

LONDON LIPTON TROPHY: Final: Erith 5 Blessed John Roache 1.

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: São Paulo league: Portuguesa 3 XV de Piracicaba 1, Ponte Preta 2 Santos 1; Corinthians 0 Novorizontino 3, São Paulo 1 Bragantino 1. America 1 Guarani 1; Juventus 1 Aracatuba 1; União São João 2 Rio Branco 2.

GOLF

HARRISON, New York: Westchester Classic: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 67: D Martin. 68: E Els (SA), G Waite (NZ), M McCullough, B Fleisher, M Hulbert. 69: J Furyk, F Allem (SA), L Rinker, C Burroughs, M Dawson, D Duval, C Beck, B McCallister, P Azinger, C Perry, J Carter. 70: M Reid, N Faldo (GB), C Byrum, V Singh (Fiji), T Lehman, C Stadler, D Pooley, B Clampett, O Uresti, B Bryant, S Ford, J Wilson, D Paulson, B Kamm, H Twitty, J Renner, J Haas, M Brisky. Other scores: 71: S Elkington (Aus), D Frost (SA), J Woodland (Aus). 72: N Ozaki (Japan. 74: D Feherty (GB), D Graham (Aus) 76: S Rintoul (Aus).

DALMAHOY: Tartan Special Scottish Professional Championship: Leading second-round scores: 139: S Henderson (Kings Links) 73, 67; 140: A Oldcorn (Dalmahoy Hotel) 69, 71; 141: B Marchbank (Marchbank Golf Enterprises) 70, 71; S Stephen (Braid Hills) 71, 70.

HOCKEY

MELBOURNE: Fifth men's international match: Australia 3 England 1 (Australia lead series 4-0; one match drawn)

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Play-offs: First round: Eastern Conference: Pittsburgh 3 Washington 0 (Pittsburgh win series 4-3).

MOTOR RALLYING

LONDON TO MEXICO RALLY: After 35th stage (Managua to San Salvador): 1, H Mikkola (Fin) and G Palm (Swe) Ford Escort, 7hr 55min 19sec; 2, R Dunkerton (Aus) and H Mansson (Aus) Datsun 240Z, 8:05:26; 3, R Martin-Hurst (GB) and W Koningsveld (Holl) Ford Escort, 8:38:28

REAL TENNIS

NEWPORT, Rhode Island: Women's world championships: Second round (GB unless stated): S Jones bt S Bicheno 6-0, 6-0; P Lumley bt J Edwards 6-0, 6-5; A Cockcroft bt J Rinaldini 6-0, 6-0; K Allen bt C Southwell 6-5, 6-0; B Sabbag (US) bt S Macintosh 6-5, 3-6, 6-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

WINFIELD CUP: Brisbane Broncos 18 North Sydney 8.

TENNIS

ROME: Men's tournament: Third round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 1-6, 6-2, 6-2; W Ferreira (SA) bt A Corretja (Sp) 6-3, 6-4, J Tarango (US) bt M Washington (US) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; M Chang (US) bt K Kucera (Slovak) 6-2, 3-6, 6-4. Quarter-finals: Bruguera bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-4, 6-1; G Ivanisevic (Croatia) bt Tarango 7-6, 6-4; T Muster (Austria) bt Chang 6-3, 6-2.

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: G Rusedski (Can) bt H Gumy (Arg) 7-6, 6-4; J Frana (Arg) bt N Pereira (Ven) 4-6, 7-6, 7-6.

BERLIN: Women's tournament: Third round: K Date (Japan) bt J Halard (Fr) 6-2, 6-3; I Spirlea (Rom) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-2, 6-1; N Zvereva (Bel) bt S Hack (Ger) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; P Begerow (Ger) bt A Temesvari (Hun) 6-4, 6-3; N Zvereva (Belo) bt S Hack (Ger) 2-6, 7-5, 6-4; A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt T Ignatieva (Belo) 6-2, 6-1; M Pierce (Fr) bt F Labat (Ar) 7-5, 6-3; N Bradtke (Aus) bt G Sabatini (Arg) 7-6, 6-4; M Maleeva (Bul) bt T Whitlinger-Jones (US) 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. Quarter-finals: Sánchez Vicario bt Date 6-3, 6-0; Spirlea bt Begerow 6-4, 6-3; Maleeva bt Pierce 7-6, 4-6, 6-4; Zvereva bt Bradtke 7-6, 6-2.

BOURNEMOUTH: Women's British claycourt championships: Semi-finals: P Hy-Boulais (Can) bt L Lee (US) 7-5, 6-2, L Richterova (Cz) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2 6-4.

BOURNEMOUTH: LTA Spring Satellite Masters: Final: A Belobrajdic (Aus) bt O Stanoichev (Bul) 6-1, 6-1.

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Wembley, Live on BBC1, kick-off 3.00pm.
11/10 MAN. UNITED 15/8 DRAW EVERTON 5/2
Extra time does not count.

MAN. UNITED TO WIN
13/2.......1-0 | 18/1.......3-0
9/1.......2-0 | 16/1.......3-1
8/1.......2-1 | 25/1.......3-2

EVERTON TO WIN
8/1.......1-0 | 40/1.......3-0
16/1.......2-0 | 33/1.......3-1
12/1.......2-1 | 28/1.......3-2

ODDS FOR A DRAW
7/1.......0-0 | 14/1.......2-2
11/2.......1-1 | 50/1.......3-3

Other scores on request.

DOUBLE RESULT BETTING

HALF TIME	FULL TIME	
MAN. UNITED	MAN. UNITED	12/5
MAN. UNITED	DRAW	12/1
MAN. UNITED	EVERTON	33/1
DRAW	MAN. UNITED	9/2
DRAW	DRAW	7/2
DRAW	EVERTON	7/1
EVERTON	MAN. UNITED	25/1
EVERTON	DRAW	12/1
EVERTON	EVERTON	11/2

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EVE OF WORLD CUP

Accomplished Everton can enjoy Wembley occasion as cup-holders strive to deliver

Need to win offers United final edge

By Rob Hughes, football correspondent

WHEN the players draw their curtains this morning, it might just dawn on the FA Cup finalists that there has been an appreciable mood swing between them. Everton, their season's survival mission accomplished, have no more reason to perform as though they are desperadoes. Manchester United, their higher aim of retaining the championship frustrated, are suddenly the players with something to win, maybe even the performers who are a shade less confident.

Who would have thought it possible? Just a week ago, United could contemplate becoming the first team in history to win, in consecutive years, the FA Cup and championship double. Now, unless they are victorious this afternoon, they might finish a season with nothing for the trophy cabinet for the first time in six seasons.

FA CUP

TEAMS

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, G Ablett — A Limpar, J Parkinson, B Horne, A Hinchcliffe — D Ferguson, P Rideout. **Substitutes:** J Kearton, D Amokachi, G Stuart or J Ebrell

MANCHESTER UNITED: (4-4-1-1). P Schmeichel — G Neville, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin — R Keane, P Ince, N Butt, L Sharpe — B McClair — M Hughes **Substitutes:** G Walsh, R Giggs, P Scholes

Referee: G Ashby

And so the 114th FA Cup Final might begin with a little prayer. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, admitted a couple of weeks ago that he had called on the Almighty to show his colours: he asked whether God was a United fan. There is reason to believe that He responded with a gesture: Get ye gone, Red Devils.

There is no question that United have the higher skill factor of the two teams, a higher degree of flair than any club in the country. But they have self-destructed through indiscipline, they have been ravaged by injuries, the mind and the flesh have succumbed to weakness.

Meanwhile, as at least half the 80,000 customers who are throwing £3 million into the FA's pot at Wembley this afternoon appreciate, Everton have been gathering steam, winning things as what their manager, Joe Royle, memorably described, "the underdogs of war".

War? Surely this is a game? Surely we are not focusing on Wembley at the end of a long and fractious season merely to hear managers talk of attrition, or to sense that players might oblige Gerald Ashby, the referee, to become only the second aribiter in over a century of history to have to send somebody off?

The first and only player dismissed in an FA Cup Final was Kevin Moran, of Manchester United, against Everton in 1985. Yes, the portents are the same, and the indisciplinary records of the two protagonists today — six red cards and more than 70 yellow cards each — confirm that Ashby's experience with chemicals (he is a finance manager of a chemical company) may require an ability to deal with combustion.

"We know the game will be physical, and that we will have to match Everton physically," Steve Bruce, the United skipper, warns. "We have Ince and Keane in midfield, and those two can match anyone, physically or mentally."

The warning is thus spelt out by one of the most articulate performers in the national game. And, make no mistake, "physical" is a euphemism for the belief that spread throughout football, that Everton, particularly when their FA Carling Premiership lifeline was at stake, were prepared to kick anything that moved, not just the football.

Everton have cleaned up their act since then. Nobody could make insinuations of overtly "physical" roughness when they overpowered, outpaced and outplayed Tottenham Hotspur to win the semi-final 4-1. Everton, then, astutely using the trickery of Anders Limpar and benefiting from the late explosion of the substitute, Daniel Amokachi, ruined what many had forecast would be "the dream final".

But they laid out their own credentials, their own worthiness to reach the shrine. When, back in February, Everton had beaten United by the solitary goal at Goodison Park, it was via the most potent weapon in their armoury. Andy Hinchcliffe had taken a corner on the right, big Duncan Ferguson rose above his 6ft 4in height and, amazingly, Gary Pallister, of equal size and stature, had stood as if stapled to the turf. Bang: from Ferguson's head to Schmeichel's net, the ball was swiftly dispatched.

More than enough will be printed this weekend about the unfortunate side-effects of Duncan Ferguson's temperament. This could, depending on the sheriff's court in Glasgow, be young Ferguson's last act of freedom.

But Ferguson, like Ryan Giggs for the opposition, is an athlete who may or may not be played at risk to his anatomical future. Ferguson had a double hernia operation on April 19, he has played half a game since, he is described by his manager as "a better than even chance" to start the Cup Final. If so, then Amokachi, the Nigerian whose presence in this country is on the line, may only be a substitute, an eager potential match-winner waiting to be sprung.

Meanwhile, Giggs, who has had just three training sessions since damaging a hamstring in the semi-final five weeks ago, is described in Alex Ferguson's managerspeak as "a definite possibility". That could mean anything or nothing.

It could be that Ferguson, deprived of £12.5 million-worth of talent, including his leading scorers Cantona, Cole and Kanchelskis, is going to gamble all the way. Certainly the speed and the flair of a fit Giggs would give Watson, at 33, nightmares. Certainly without Giggs there is no such thrust, except for the fact that Mark Hughes has been lying fallow for weeks, and nobody fears the big match volleys of Hughes more than Royle, whose Oldham team was on the threshold of Wembley a year ago until Hughes's last-minute kick robbed them. "We were a pimple away," the loquacious Royle muttered.

When weighing the odds, when considering the elements of surprise, do not forget the hunger and the potential that has brought new life to Everton. The goalkeeper, Neville Southall, 36, swears that, in his 650th match, his ninth Wembley appearance for Everton, he is "playing for my future. I get more nervous, because the more often you come, the more you realise what's at stake.".

And, in the Everton attack, overshadowed by the clamour for Ferguson, Paul Rideout, will, with a long memory, recall how to score spectacularly at Wembley stadium. He was 16, playing for England schoolboys, when, 30 yards out, he turned and struck one of his three goals that afternoon against Scotland.

But, if the battle that is predicted does not mar this occasion, if the first hour of tenacity and bite around midfield survives with all 22 on the field, then the substitutes, Amokachi or perhaps Giggs, might settle the affair. What we all require is this: "All we can do is get on with our life and maintain our standard and traditions. One of the principles is to win, but to win in the right way." Go for it, Alex Ferguson.

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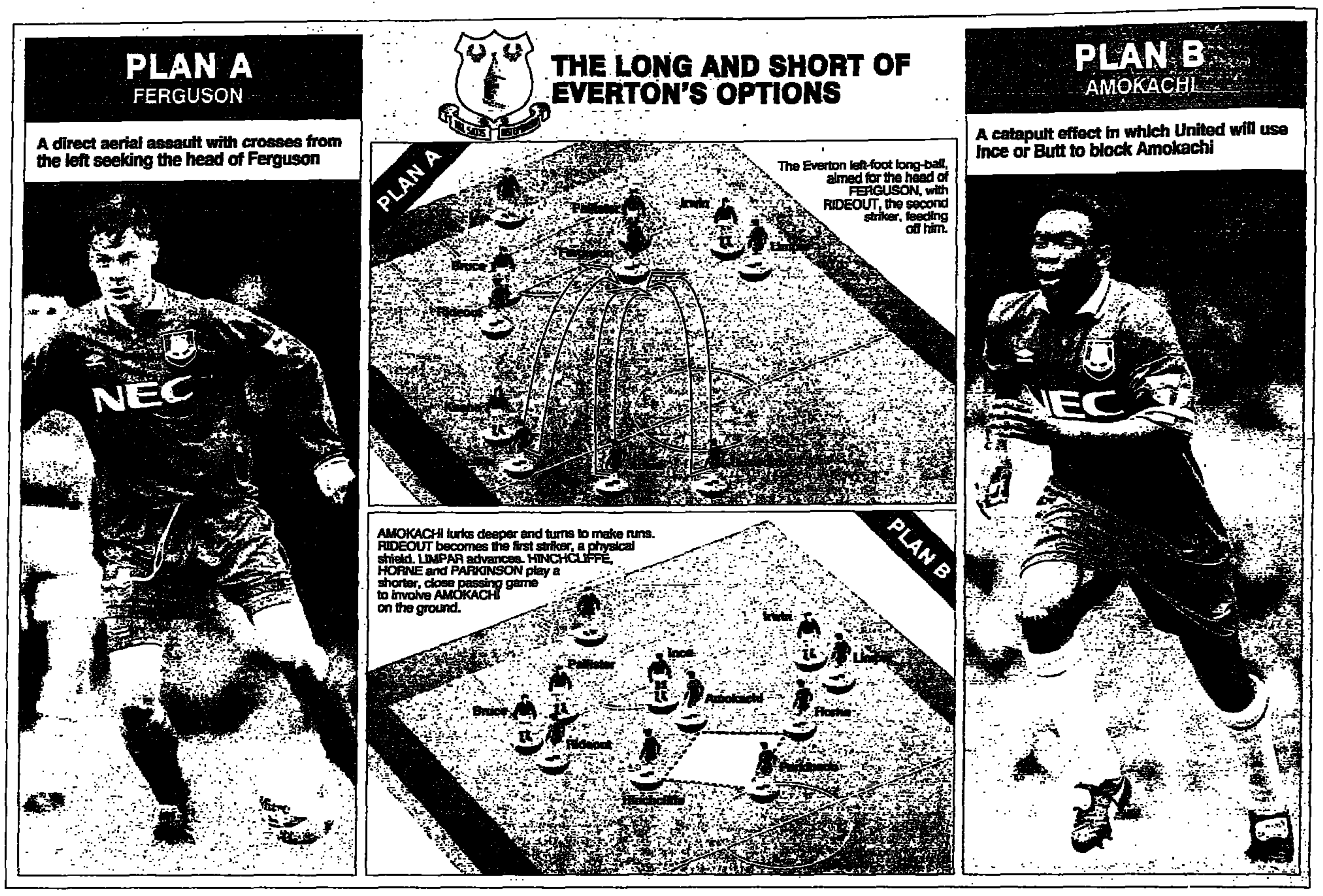

PLAN A
FERGUSON
A direct aerial assault with crosses from the left seeking the head of Ferguson
THE LONG AND SHORT OF EVERTON'S OPTIONS
PLAN A
The Everton left-foot long-ball, aimed for the head of FERGUSON, with RIDEOUT, the second striker, feeding off him.
Pallister
Irwin
Ferguson
Bruce
Rideout
Keane
PLAN B
AMOKACHI lurks deeper and turns to make runs. RIDEOUT becomes the first striker, a physical shield. LIMPAR advances. HINCHCLIFFE, HORNE and PARKINSON play a shorter, close passing game to involve AMOKACHI on the ground.
Irwin
Limpar
Ince
Pallister
Amokachi
Horne
Bruce
Rideout
Parkinson
Hinchcliffe
PLAN B
AMOKACHI
A catapult effect in which United will use Ince or Butt to block Amokachi
NEC

PATH TO FINAL

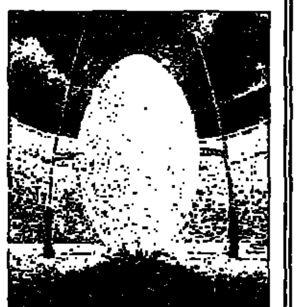
Everton

THIRD ROUND: Derby County (h) 1-0 (Hinchcliffe).
FOURTH ROUND: Bristol City (a) 1-0 (Jackson).
FIFTH ROUND: Norwich City (h) 5-0 (Limpar, Parkinson, Rideout, Ferguson, Stuart).
SIXTH ROUND: Newcastle United (h) 1-0 (Watson).
SEMI-FINALS (at Elland Road): Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 (Jackson, Stuart, Amokachi 2).

Manchester United

THIRD ROUND: Sheffield United (a) 2-0 (Hughes, Cantona).
FOURTH ROUND: Wrexham (h) 5-2 (Irwin 2, Giggs, McClair, Humes (og).
FIFTH ROUND: Leeds United (h) 3-1 (Bruce, McClair, Hughes).
SIXTH ROUND: Queens Park Rangers (h) 2-0 (Irwin, Sharpe).
SEMI-FINALS (at Villa Park): Crystal Palace 2-2 aet (Irwin, Pallister).
SEMI-FINAL REPLAY (at Villa Park): Crystal Palace 2-0 (Bruce, Pallister).

TIMES SPORT ON MONDAY



RUGBY'S BIG KICK-OFF

A 24-page colour guide to the Rugby World Cup, which begins in South Africa on Thursday.
Who plays where and when?
How is ITV shaping up for the screen test?
Who will win the battle of the kickers?
Plus the chance to win an 18-day trip to the tournament

ENGLISH VIEW FROM ABROAD

The first of Rob Andrew's exclusive reports from the World Cup

Wells gains well-earned promotion

By Alan Lee
cricket correspondent

IT HAD been a bad week for Alan Wells. His bountiful start to the summer had ended with a "pair" and his Sussex team had lost two one-day games. Given the frustrating course his career has taken, he had no reason to rush to his radio yesterday, no cause to believe that everything would change with a belated launch to the England career he thought had passed him by.

The Sussex captain is 33, undeniably old to be taking the final step to the national side and hardly a qualifier in Michael Atherton's stated vision of an investment in youth. His appearance in a 13-man party for the Texaco Trophy series against West Indies, however, reflects both his status as the best uncapped batsman in the country and his credentials as an alternative captain.

SQUAD

M A Atherton (Lancashire, captain)
A J Stewart (Surrey, wkt)
G A Hick (Worcestershire)
G P Thorpe (Surrey)
M R Ramprakash (Middlesex)
N H Fairbrother (Lancashire)
A P Wells (Sussex)
D G Cork (Derbyshire)
P A J DeFreitas (Derbyshire)
D Gough (Yorkshire)
S D Udal (Hampshire)
A R C Fraser (Middlesex)
P J Martin (Lancashire)

Wells has gained one of two wild-card selections joining the predictable eleven who will, presumably, open the series at Trent Bridge next Wednesday. The other spare place, surprisingly, has gone to Peter Martin, of Lancashire, promoted ahead of his own county team-mate Glen Chapple.

Martin, 26, is big, powerful and capable but has previously lacked the hostility to be an effective fast bowler. Increased responsibilities and the urgings of his coach, David Lloyd, have toughened his approach but Martin was still startled by the news. "It's something that had not crossed my mind," he said. "I have been more concerned about trying to cement my place at Lancashire."

It is a perilously specialist selection by Raymond Illingworth and his three-man panel. Dominic Cork is the only all-rounder and, as Graeme Hick has scarcely been fit to bowl so far this season, cover for the five front-line bowlers is thin. This was inevitable once Craig White had been discarded, the claims of Jason Gallian and Adam Hollioake considered but filed under "pending", and Shaun Udal preferred to Paul Weekes as a solitary spinner.

Winning the Texaco series is preferable to losing it, of course, but this squad has more relevance to the World Cup in nine months' time than to this summer's Test series.

Wells may be the exception. He has long possessed the technique and temperament to play Test cricket and it was in pique at being persistently overlooked that he fled to South Africa on the final "rebel" tour in 1990. Last season he suffered his worst season for for many summers, missing what appeared his best and last chance to break into Test cricket.

That Wells himself shared this view was evident in a radio interview broadcast an hour before the England party was announced. He spoke of focusing on Sussex matters this season, having "got things wrong" by channelling his thoughts too much towards England selection last summer. "If I get plenty of runs, then perhaps they might have a look at me later this year," he said. Little did he know.

Wells has already made three first-class centuries this season and, as Illingworth explained: "He is strong and fit, he plays straight and he is a good fielder." The chairman of selectors was also keen to praise Wells's maturity. He was impressed by his summary of the A-team tour of India last winter, which he captained, and said: "He gives me the impression that he is a good character." In thus endorsing his leadership potential, Illingworth was giving himself a viable alternative if the half-term appointment of Atherton should go wrong.

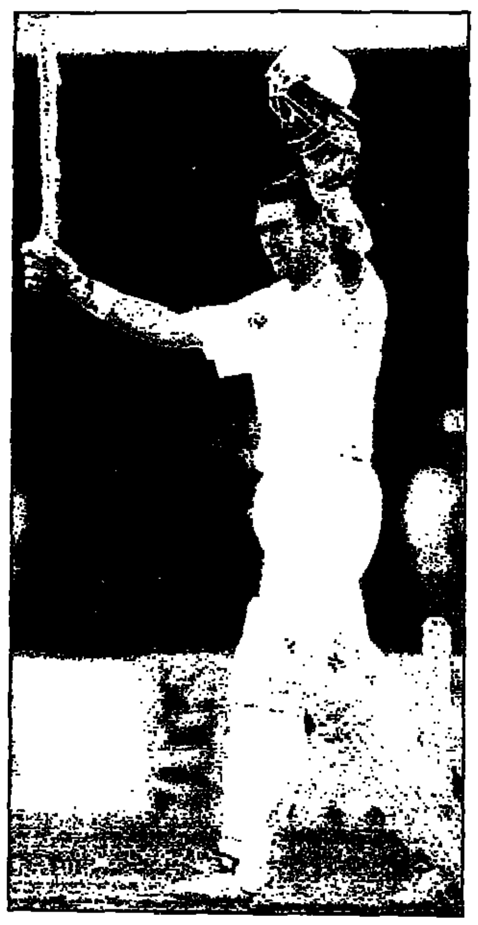
It is difficult to gauge whether Atherton has been permitted the input he desires. There is, however, only one Yorkshire player chosen, which will cool some of the jibes directed Illingworth's way, while the preference for one Lancashire bowler over another who is patently out of form suggests Atherton has had his say. How long this will continue is problematical.

Illingworth said yesterday that he is attracted by a selection system that excludes the captain, as is the theory — but not always the practice — in Australia. "There is a case for the system but at the moment no real move for it," he said. The day he did introduce such a policy would, in all probability, be the day he had to seek a new captain.

Hooper century 35
Wells excels 35

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Martin is bowling with more hostility



Wells thought best chance had gone

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هكذا من الاصل

The Swatch car: is the time right for a smart little eco buggy?

Page 12

CAR 95

Your last chance to win a luxury trip around Europe

Page 5

THE TIMES
Lease Plan
Company Car Driver 1995

SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

No ifs, no butts: **Edward Gorman** and **Oliver Holt** on the first anti-smoking race car

Smoke on the tracks: when Damon Hill races his Rothmans Williams at the British Grand Prix, the anti-smoking Extinguisher car will also be on track at Silverstone Photograph: Steve Etherington

Mr Clean takes on tobacco giants

Nigel Mansell detests them and Michael Schumacher would never even touch one ... but their sport takes hundreds of millions of pounds in sponsorship from cigarette firms.

Tobacco advertising dominates motor racing, with brand names emblazoned on every car, every helmet, every inch of overall that can be shown to a television audience as high as 600 million for a Formula One Grand Prix.

In a sport where children become as familiar with the names of Marlboro and Rothmans as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, there is one small voice crying out against the tobacco industry's blitz on the tracks.

As Damon Hill revs his Rothmans Williams at the British Grand Prix in July, Mansell checks his Marlboro McLaren and Schumacher climbs into his Mild Seven Benetton, Hugo Spowers will be hoping for a first win for his car: the Extinguisher.

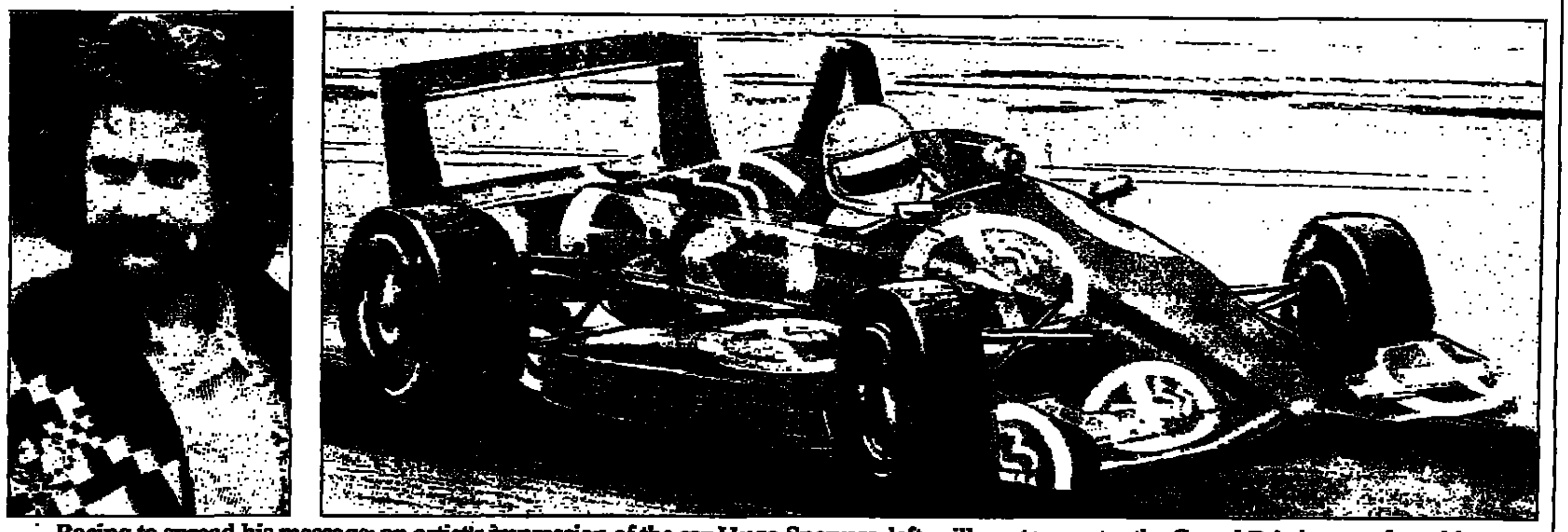
The Extinguisher will stick out like a sore thumb, its red body covered in no-smoking signs, for Spowers is running the first race car with the backing of ASH, the anti-smoking group.

Spowers, a 34-year-old Old Etonian who runs a classic car restoration business in Windlesham, Surrey, says he is not on a moral crusade but wants to challenge the seductive message conveyed by the tobacco industry that the glamour, speed and excitement of motor racing goes hand-in-hand with smoking.

Tobacco companies, he says, have been using the sport to attract young smokers — the typical age for a first cigarette is 11, about when boys pick up on motorsport — knowing that once they have done so, they have customers for life.

"Through motorsport, millions of pounds are ploughed into suggesting to children that smoking endows them with a glamorous image," says Spowers. "The consequence is that they no longer have true freedom of choice. If we want to offer them this freedom, someone must start selling the other side of the coin. I do not wish to infringe on anybody's liberty to smoke, but I do believe in the liberty not to smoke."

It is a formidable race to win: 24 of 26 cars in Formula One have tobacco sponsorship and the big four F1 teams — whose cars carry the most powerful images — are all backed by multi-national cigarette manufacturers.



Racing to spread his message: an artist's impression of the car Hugo Spowers, left, will use to counter the Grand Prix image of smoking

Marlboro, part of the Philip Morris empire, is the title sponsor for McLaren and Ferrari and also provides backing to the Jordan drivers, Rubens Barrichello and Eddie Irvine. Mild Seven, a subsidiary of Japan Tobacco, has poured about £20 million into Benetton over two years and has also backed Tyrrell. Rothmans is believed to pay about the same amount to Williams — with its two British drivers, Hill and David Coulthard — while the French-based Ligier team is sponsored by Gitanes Blondes.

Ironically, the drivers are the least enthusiastic ambassadors for the companies that pay their wages. Only one driver on the circuit smokes — Mika Salo, the Finn who drives for Tyrrell — while Alain Prost, the former three times world champion, blames smoking for the death of a relative. Drivers are so dedicated to fitness they not only find the notion of smoking incomprehensible, they even let smokers know of their distaste. Mansell is one of many who prefers people not to smoke in his company.

Spowers believes that is part of the message children and teenagers never see nor hear. But he had to find a way to make the point without bludgeoning his young audience, so he went to Adrian Vickers at advertising agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, which has a long track-record in not promoting cigarettes.

Vickers, who did the work without a fee, says: "The difficulty we had was to try and negate the advantage that smoking has of appearing cool and attractive, by trying to suggest the same qualities could apply to non-smoking."

Dr Anne Charlton of Manchester University, a leading expert on why children smoke, is enthusiastic because the message is subtle enough to appeal to street-wise youngsters. "You are not actually saying anything. You are leaving it to their good sense and imagination to interpret what it means — I like that."

Spowers, though, faces the problem that confronts everybody in motor racing: where to get the money. He needs £150,000 this year and is offering sponsorship parcels of £10,000 units from corporate or private donors to run two Dallara cars in Formula Three's Group B until the end of the season, starting with the F3 Grand Prix which supports the F1 top bill at Silverstone on July 15. The plan is to double the contributions to £20,000 and run cars in Group A next season.

However, there will be no sponsors' logos on the cars. Spowers will allow badges and titles on everything associated with the team and reckons there will be considerable potential for merchandising spin-offs. But the car will carry just the one pristine and distinctive message through its no-smoking livery. The benefit to sponsors, says Spowers, is the chance to be associated with a positive image in motor-racing which they can draw on in their own promotions.

> 'Millions are spent on linking smoking to glamour'

The next jump will be the ultimate — to Formula One, where the Extinguisher could rub wheels with cigarette-branded rivals. Rosie Sumner of Ash, which is backing the Extinguisher enthusiastically, says: "We can have quite a significant effect in making people think about sports sponsorship and making them realise cars can offer a different lifestyle.

"We might have to be content with a couple of years at Formula Three, but if we can attract sufficient sponsorship, there is no reason why we can't move on to Formula One."

Spowers, at least, has an image that should attract sponsors. Far from being a killjoy, he is a a former member of the Dangerous Sports Club, has skied down the slopes at St Moritz on a grand piano and made the world's first bungy jump. His enthusiasm for danger almost cost his life 12 years ago when he broke his neck, back and pelvis in a jump that went horribly wrong.

Vickers says: "The car has the advantage of going against the general trend, but for it to have an impact, the most important ingredient will be success on the track."

Reaction in the industry has been understandably wary. Andrew Marriott, of Championship Sports Specialists, the sports marketing company which has worked with several tobacco companies in Formula One, said PR would be the key. "There is nothing wrong in Hugo Spowers advertising no smoking on a race car — it's a fun idea."

Ben Welsh, public affairs manager for the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association, said: "If they want to do it, good luck to them. Whether it takes off or not, only time will tell."

Hugo Spowers can be contacted at Prowess Racing on 012764 51428.

Beware of being mugged at the wheel

Carjackers are becoming even more daring

Drivers are being warned to wind up their windows and lock their doors — or risk being mugged where they sit at the wheel, *write Helen Mound and Kathryn Knight.*

As the Bank Holiday signals the start of summer vacations, police and motoring organisations say motorists must not succumb to warm weather and wind down their windows to keep cool or they could fall victim to carjackers.

The warning comes after a 20-year-old driver was abducted in his own car by two men this week.

His blue Golf GTi was followed through Leicester by a Vauxhall Cavalier. When he pulled up at red lights, two men jumped out, pulled open his unlocked driver's door and bundled him into the passenger seat. One of the assailants then got into the rear of the car.

They forced a balaclava over his head and threatened the unnamed motorist with a knife before taking his wallet and cash card pin number to draw money from a nearby hole-in-the-wall. Then they drove four miles to a village where they dumped the shocked, but unharmed driver in the road and drove away in his car.

The RAC says carjacking is spreading and thieves could be targeting mobile phones, which motorists, particularly women, use to keep safe.

About 15,000 mobile phones are stolen every month and cases have included a driver robbed as he was served at a fast-food drive-in, a woman who had her handset grabbed while using it at traffic lights and a couple whose car window was smashed by three thugs who seized the phone.

Such thieves will grab anything: jackets, handbags — even watches from drivers' wrists.

Superintendent Peter Lally, of Hammersmith Police, says: "Criminals rely on easy entry, surprise, speed and numbers. We've seen as many as nine in a gang. There's no denying they're extremely vicious; they tend to carry knives and are likely to use them if cornered."

Peggy Cairnes was so badly shaken by an attack on her Jeep she refuses to drive to unfamiliar places alone, even 18 months later. "It was so sudden. I had no idea what was happening until they started shouting at me," she says. "The worst thing is I'd never recognise those boys if I saw them again."

She devised a panic system for her car to scare off offenders and give her time to react and escape in a similar situation. "Luckily they ran away when I sounded my car horn, which is where I got the idea of a built-in personal alarm."

With the help of her electronics engineer husband, she designed an alarm, aptly-named Screecher, that lets out a 110-decibel shriek — louder than a passing jet — connected to two sets of strobelights and the hazard indicators.

Activated by a button on the dashboard, it is likely to startle the most hardened carjacker.

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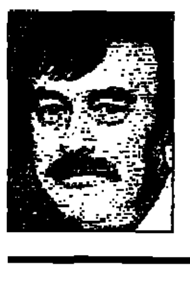
An insurance curb and more training in schools could help cut the toll of horrific accidents by teenage drivers

Dreadful price the young need not pay

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

A quarter of all deaths in road accidents involve people under the age of 21 — but in some respects the young people who die are lucky. Thousands of others pay a price for one piece of madness that lasts a lifetime: paralysis, brain disorder, the loss of a limb.

The stock response to such grim facts is that "something must be done", but nobody seems to know what that something should be.

I am no better equipped to offer solutions than anyone else and I am certainly not of the persuasion which argues that the present generation of teenagers is in some way out of control: most teenagers I know understand cars better than I did at that age and they put middle-aged people to shame when it comes to avoiding drink-driving.

On the radio this week I heard a safety campaigner say that part of the problem was hot hatchback cars. This cannot be so. For one thing, a bog-standard Ford Fiesta will do 100mph and can be thrown round corners at speeds sufficient to kill.

Also, cars like the Escort XR3i cost a relative fortune to buy and a second fortune to insure, the sort of money few teenagers can lay their hands on. At which point we reach a clue to one of the problems, which is not teenagers but parents.

Too many of them follow-up the standard 17th birthday gift — a course of driving lessons — with the purchase of a car. Then they put the car on their own insurance with the son (statistically, the problem driver is usually male) as a named driver.

This does the son no good, for he lacks an insurance record when the time comes to insure himself, but it is, in more ways than one, the fastest way to get a growing lad off your hands.

It would not be difficult for insurance companies to refuse to accept young people under 21 as named drivers on their parents' policies, and even if parents still helped with the premiums they would at least have a vested interest in what car was bought and how it was driven.

We must also do something to get driving taught in all schools, rather than the few which do it already. A teenager attaches to a car a mystique which is natural and understandable, given the amount of time our children spend in the car.

Surely, part of the mystique is that teenagers itch to get their hands on a car but cannot legally do so until they are old enough to have a full licence? Most schools have some sort of space where an old but functioning jalopy could be manoeuvred, under strict supervision, by children aged 15-plus.

A tiny contribution from each parent would purchase the car and one hour a couple of times a week would be enough to give most older children a valuable introduction to the most important, most lethal, most expensive, most useful and most enjoyable piece of equipment they are ever likely to own.

I've gone down in History... Geography, Art and French but I got 'A' level Joyriding
CAR CLASS
GED

Idiot of the week award goes to the parking warden who has been fining people £35 a time in a Cornish pay-and-display car park. These naughty folk have not been refusing to buy a ticket, oh no. They have been placing the ticket on their windscreen *upside down*. Or, in a few cases, back to front.

I do not have much sympathy for people who leave the tickets back to front, but upside down? Apparently this makes the ticket "difficult to read". West Penwith council has started letting off these upside-downers, provided they can prove that the ticket was valid. And they have to pay a £2 administration fee.

All of this nonsense has been going on in Truro. Lemon street, to be precise. It is a venerable old street so cannot have been named after a parking warden. Could it?

Caution! Car park prangs can cost dear

Jonathan Prynn

on a legal anomaly that can seriously damage health and wealth

Hundreds of victims of reckless, uninsured drivers are missing out on huge damages payments because their injuries were sustained in accidents in car parks rather than on public roads.

A controversial legal anomaly means most people who are run over or crash in car parks are not protected by the insurance industry's safety net, the Uninsured Drivers' Agreement.

Under the agreement, which is operated by the Motor Insurers' Bureau, £75 million was paid last year to more than 25,000 people who made bodily injury and property damage claims against uninsured or untraceable drivers. However, about 100 claims a year are turned down on the grounds that the accidents did not take place on a "road", as defined by the 1988 Road Traffic Act.

For Joseph Levi, a 31-year-old former security guard left crippled when he was run over in a car park in southeast London in January 1994, the rule could mean the loss of tens of thousands of pounds he believed he was entitled to.

Mr Levi, a former Israeli army officer, was injured in the Surrey Quays shopping centre car park when a shoplifter he was chasing reversed over his foot. The accident has left him with persistent, excruciating pains in his right ankle, making it difficult for him to walk or even stand for more than a few minutes at a time, and forcing him to give up his £15,000-a-year job.

Once a sports-mad fitness fanatic, he can now get about only with the help of a walking-stick and will probably never run again. He has been warned he will develop severe arthritis in his right leg later in life.

Mr Levi is living on £71-a-week invalidity benefit and is dependent on his wife, who has sacrificed her career in retail management to care for him at home. Their combined annual household income has plummeted from a comfortable £31,000 to a subsistence level £7,000.

As the shoplifter had no motor insurance, Mr Levi, who is now hoping to go to Leicester University and pursue a career in security management, made a claim against the Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) to cover his injuries, legal costs, loss of earnings and retraining fees.

Eagle Star, the MIB's insurers, resisted the claim, which could have totalled up to an estimated £60,000, on the grounds that the accident did not take place on a legally defined road.

Mr Levi was advised that he would be ineligible for legal aid if he decided to pursue the claim through the courts, and has been forced to fall back on the much less attractive option of an application to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

He has yet to receive a promised interim payment of £1,000 and expects his final award, net of legal costs and paid-out state benefits, may amount to only a few thousand pounds when it is finally determined, probably in about a year's time.

The experience has left Mr Levi bitter about a system that appears to discriminate unfairly against the many victims of car park accidents. He argues the law should be changed to protect the millions of people who use car parks but are unaware they could be at risk if involved in an accident.

"I would not want anyone to go through what I have suffered over the past 18 months, as a result of a stupid rule that says because a car park is not a public road, you are not covered," he said. "You can easily kill a child in a car park, so why won't they change the law?"

As well as car parks, the rule means accidents on beaches and mountain and moorland tracks have also been ruled beyond the scope of the agreement in the courts, although, confusingly, accidents on canal towpaths are covered.

The situation is complicated by the vague legal definition of a road, which the Department of Transport has left to be determined through often conflicting court judgments made under a variety of legal jurisdictions.

Roger Snook, claims manager at the MIB, admits the courts are "notoriously inconsistent" in their rulings, making it difficult for victims to get clear advice on whether claims are valid or not. Often, the costly and time-consuming process of fighting the bureau's insurers through the courts is the only way of settling the issue.

In broad terms, if you are going to be run over by an uninsured driver in a car park, try to make sure it happens in Scotland rather than England, which has more restrictive case law. Avoid accidents in Northern Ireland car parks at all costs.

Car parks with two entrances rather than one are also "safer" because the courts often rule that they count as roads and are, therefore, covered by the uninsured drivers' agreement.

So, whereas a typical multi-storey car park, where vehicles enter from and leave on to the same road, would not qualify, car parks that have an entrance and an exit on different roads — and can be used as rat-runs — probably would. Whether or not there are barriers at the entrance can also make a difference to the chances of making a successful claim.

Such subtle legal distinctions offer scant comfort to Mr Levi as he contemplates the grim prospect of permanent disability, with little hope of the substantial financial support he thought he was entitled to.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Bitter: Joseph Levi was left crippled after being run over in a London car park

THE TIMES

Win the new Rover MGF

Since it was first shown at the Geneva Motor Show in March, more than 500 orders have been placed for Rover's new MGF. *The Times*, in association with Rover Group, is offering readers a chance to beat the queue by winning one of the first cars off the production line.

Collect six of the MGF tokens appearing in *The Times* every day and attach them to the application form below. You may send in as many entries as you wish, but each must be on an official form, accompanied by six tokens.

Send your entry to:
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For further information on the MGF call 0645 251 251.

THE TIMES
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....

POSTCODE .... DAY PHONE ....

CAR DRIVEN (MAKE MODEL) ....

.... REG. LETTER ☐

DATE PURCHASED MONTH .... YEAR ....

IS THE CAR PRIVATELY OWNED? ☐ COMPANY ☐

WHEN DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REPLACE THE CAR?

MONTH .... YEAR .... (e.g July 1995)

WHICH ROVER ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

800 / 600 / 400 / 200 / 100 / Mini / MGF

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings from *The Times* or Rover Group ☐

Kevin Eason on the guest of honour at a birthday party for thousands

New MG on show this weekend

ENTHUSIASTS get their first chance to see the new MGF this weekend, at the annual international meeting of the MG Car Club at Silverstone.

Rover is sending two cars to the Northamptonshire circuit to show off its new baby in advance of the car's launch later this summer, and thousands of MG enthusiasts will be there to drool over the latest addition to the family.

MG celebrates a series of birthdays this weekend: it is 65 years since the MG Car Club was formed by John Thornley, once the company's managing director; 60 years since the manufacture of the MG SA, 50 years since the MG TC and the 40th anniversary of the famous MGA.

The weekend's events will celebrate every shape and size of MG, one of the most famous sports car names in the world, with about 10,000 enthusiasts expected and a list of MG races today. Tomorrow's central event is the concours, at which owners will show off their cars in all their spick-and-span finery.

The Silverstone gathering is run by one of the most organised enthusiasts' clubs in the world, with 85 overseas affiliates and a sophisticated network of parts suppliers who keeps cars running.

The headquarters is at Abingdon, near Oxford, on the edge of the vast site where Cecil Kimber and John Thornley ran one of the world's most successful sports car businesses. When MG production was stopped at Abingdon by BL in 1980, everybody thought that was the end of the marque. But MGs do not die: they are bought in huge numbers, not only by enthusiasts but by ordinary motorists who want something different to the usual "Euro-Jap" styles that crowd the showrooms. There are thousands of Midgets and MGBs still on the road, many in as good a condition as the day they were first bought.

The best will be at Silverstone for the celebrations. Admission is £11 for the two days, or £9 on Sunday, with no charge for children under 16.

The next big event of the week is in Monaco, where Brooks, the auctioneers, hold a pre-Grand Prix auction on Wednesday. However, the auctioneers may turn up with slightly red faces after billing a 1966 Toyota 2000GT coupé on sale as a famous Bond car.

Brooks thought the Toyota was featured in *You Only Live Twice* — actually, it was delivered to the set but never used, because the director wanted a convertible. A production designer on set bought it and it was later owned for 25 years by Viscount Raynham. That meant an urgent recall of the sale catalogues. The Toyota, now hailed as a Japanese sports classic, could fetch about £25,000.

'Two days of events will celebrate the marque'

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

FA Cup Final between Manchester United and Everton is today at Wembley Stadium. Routes into the area will be heavily congested, especially the M1, A40 and A406.

Chelsea Flower Show on Royal Hospital Road, from Tuesday to Friday will cause heavy traffic, especially in Sloane St, Chelsea Bridge Road and Embankment.

M4 J1-2 (A4-A406) Elevated Section closed from 10pm Friday to 6am Tuesday May 30 for maintenance. Severe delays expected.

A406 North Circular Rd, Chiswick. Closed Kew Bridge to Hanger Lane Gyratory 10pm Friday to 6am May 30 for maintenance. Diversion will operate but expect severe congestion.

● SOUTHEAST

M25 Surrey. Roadworks and lane closures, between J10 and 11 (A3/Chertsey) and J7 and J8 (M23/Reigate).

M23 J9 (Gatwick). Major roadworks have started with work being done off-peak. .

M275 Portsmouth, Hampshire. Lane closures both ways between Rudmore roundabout and M27 for major maintenance (with lane closures on M27 at the M275 intersection as well).

M2 J2-3 (Rochester-Chatham). Weekend contraflow for safety repairs at the Medway River Bridge today and tomorrow with coastbound slip roads closed.

A3 Guildford, Surrey. Major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton.

● SOUTHWEST

A3052 Clyst St.Mary, near Exeter.Devon County Show takes place today. Delays are expected

M5 Avon. Two separate contraflows for major roadworks, between J19 and 17 (Portbury-Bristol West) and J17 and 16 (Bristol West-Almondsbury). Southbound entry slip road at J16 closed.

M5 Gloucestershire. Two contraflows for roadworks, between J12 and 11 (Gloucester-Cheltenham) and at J9 (Tewkesbury).

A417 Gloucester. Contraflow on Barnwood Bypass.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

RAF Mildenhall Air Fete, Suffolk takes place from next Saturday to Monday May 29. Heavy delays expected in the area (A11, A1101, A1065).

M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A38M). Contraflow and some restrictions on the slip roads at J6.

A4123 near Dudley, West Midlands. One lane closed each way on Birmingham New Road, between Burnt Tree island and Tipton Road junction until June.

● NORTH

M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber Bridge-Broughton). Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31 (Salmesbury).

A1 Dishforth, North Yorkshire. Two narrow lanes each way at contraflow until end of June.

A565 Formby Bypass, Merseyside. Bridge works and contraflow starts on Monday.

A1058 Jesmond Road, Newcastle. One lane each way on Cradlewell Bypass.

● WALES

A48 Dyfed. Contraflow west of J49 of the M4 (Pont Abraham), for construction.

A5 Maerdy, Clwyd. Improvements at Glyn bends. Restrictions include temporary lights at times and short-term closures until end of July.

A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. One-way system operating during widening work (until end of June).

A449 Gwent and **A40** between Newport and Monmouth. Major works with lane closures.

● SCOTLAND

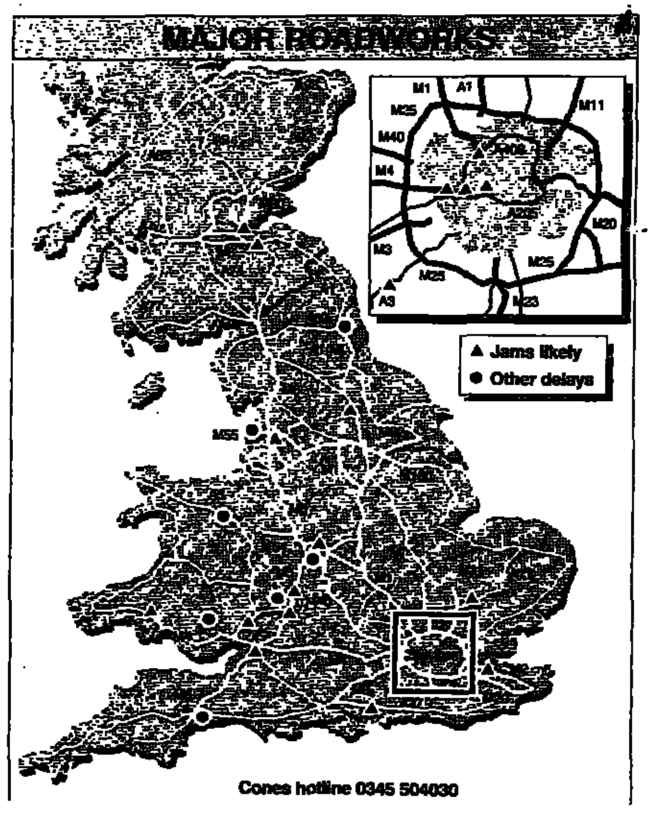
M9 Lothian (Newbridge). Major construction between motorway and Edinburgh City Bypass.

A90 Forth Road Bridge, Lothian, overnight work with contraflow from May 19-22, 8pm to 6am.

● NORTHERN IRELAND

M1 near J10 (Lurgan). Contraflow for major roadworks. J10 westbound entry/exit slip roads closed.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

NEWS SUMMARY

Most truckers 'facing sleep risk'

American scientists have diagnosed sleep apnoea — a condition that interrupts sleep causing severe fatigue — among 78 per cent of truck drivers. The findings could have far-reaching consequences if truck drivers are found to be setting out on their journeys so tired they cause accidents. Stanford University School of Medicine warns that the drivers' disrupted working patterns could be the reason.

GM to buy £1.8 billion parts in UK

General Motors is promising to buy components worth £1.8 billion in Britain this year, up by £500 million. The company, which owns Vauxhall in Britain and Opel on the Continent, is seeking UK suppliers to offset the cost of buying in Germany as currency markets force up the the mark and the yen, making foreign parts more expensive.

Ford's light fantastic thrills owner

Consternation reigns because Ernest Beard's Ford has blown a light bulb . . . after 33 years. The Popular 100E was made in 1962 and has been with Beard's family in Langley, Berkshire, since new. The "Pop" had a reconditioned engine after 92,000 miles but the sealed headlamps are still as new.

Testing time in TV debut

Helen Mound, one of *CAR 95*'s writing team, makes her debut as a television presenter in her own show on Meridien on Monday. In *The Road Show* over the next eight weeks, Helen will test cars and talk to top designers. The show goes out at 10.20pm in the Southern region.

AA asks for volunteer jambusters

Drivers could warn fellow travellers of road jams if they join the AA Roadwatch Jambusters' Club. Members are asked to phone when they are involved in a snarl-up to keep other members in the clear. Information from Helen Harron, Jambusters, AA Roadwatch, Fanum House, 29 The Broadway, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4DF.

Ford builds its millionth Mondeo

Ford has made 1 million Mondeos, just two years after the model was launched. Mondeos are now manufactured in America as well as Europe and the one millionth Mondeo came off the assembly line in Kansas City.

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, continuing his series on great British cars, salutes the Land Rover

Workhorse that conquered the world . . .

Today we take four-wheel drive for granted; popular cars such as the Ford Mondeo, Subaru Impreza and Volkswagen Golf have been available with it for years, while off-roaders are made all over the world.

In concept, they are all descended from the ubiquitous American Jeep, of which more than 700,000 were made during the Second World War, and which was put into production for civilian customers soon after. New American cars were not available to British purchasers in the 1940s, but there were a lot of ex-military Jeeps around and one was used by Rover's chief engineer, Maurice Wilks, on his Anglesey estate. Legend has it that his brother Spencer asked him what he would replace it with when it wore out and he replied: "Another Jeep, I suppose. There's nothing else."

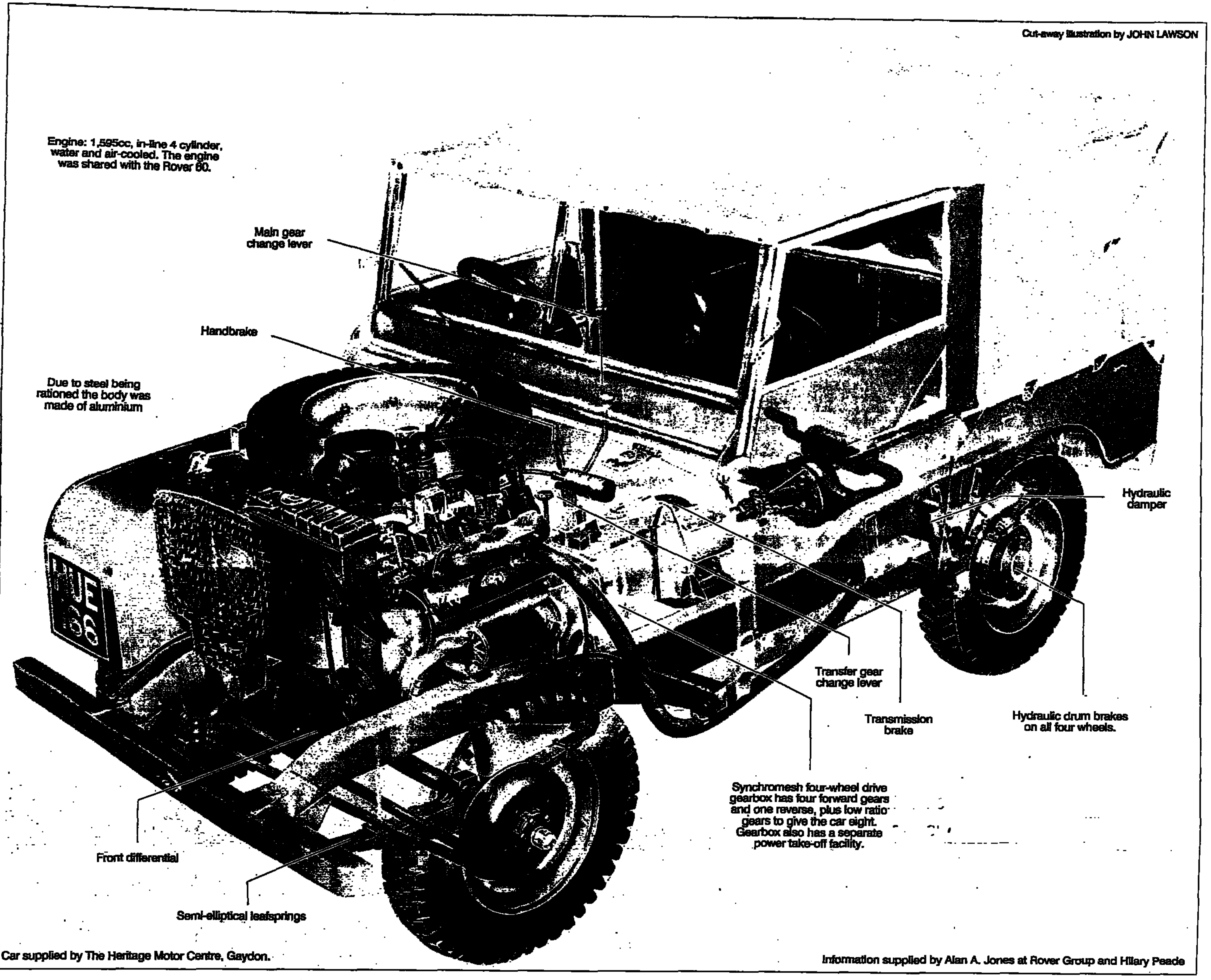
This set the brothers thinking, though Rover had never made anything like a cross-country vehicle before. They needed a quantity production vehicle to keep their large shadow factory at Solihull busy, and they needed a strong export market to obtain their allocation of steel from the Government.

Maurice Wilks christened the new car the Land Rover before anything had been built, seeing it as a vehicle which could pull a plough, carry loads and drive other machinery via a power take-off. He oversaw the design, though much of the work was done by a team led by his deputy, Robert Boyle.

Although it has lasted for 47 years and is still going strong, the Land Rover was intended only as a stop-gap until a new range of saloons could be made. There was no expensive retooling and standard Rover components were used where possible. This was not possible with the chassis, so a simple box-section design was thought up, in which the frame members were welded together in a jig. The body panels were of Birmabright aluminium alloy: three times as expensive as steel, it was easier to work by hand and its better resistance to corrosion would be vital in a farm vehicle exposed to all weathers.

The first prototype was assembled in 1947. It used a Jeep chassis, a Rover Ten engine and had a central steering wheel. This was to avoid different steering arrangements for home and export models, but was abandoned on production cars. The body was more Jeep-like than subsequent Land Rovers, with no doors and very rudimentary weather protection.

Further prototypes followed and in September 1947, a pre-production run of 25 cars was sanctioned, quickly followed by another 25. These had larger engines of the new inlet-over exhaust valve type. Most had standard utility bodies, though now with doors, but some special applications were made, a foretaste of the great variety of bodies which would be seen in the future. These included a hardtop, an estate — and a fire engine. One or two prototypes had the option of two- or four-wheel drive, but permanent 4x4 was chosen for production. The gearbox had four forward speeds and a transfer box with two ranges, giving a total of eight speeds. From 1950, two-wheel drive could be selected in high range. The pre-production chassis were galvanised by an outside firm and large drain holes had to be made to allow excess zinc to drain off. Apparently, some chassis differed by up to 50lb in weight because of the accumulation of zinc!


Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON
Engine: 1,595cc, in-line 4 cylinder, water and air-cooled. The engine was shared with the Rover 60.
Main gear change lever
Handbrake
Due to steel being rationed the body was made of aluminium
Hydraulic damper
Transfer gear change lever
Transmission brake
Hydraulic drum brakes on all four wheels.
Synchromesh four-wheel drive gearbox has four forward gears and one reverse, plus low ratio gears to give the car eight. Gearbox also has a separate power take-off facility.
Front differential
Semi-elliptical leafsprings
Car supplied by The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.
Information supplied by Alan A. Jones at Rover Group and Hilary Peade

The Land Rover was launched at the Amsterdam Show in April 1948 and was an immediate success. Exports accounted for about 80 per cent of production from the start, though home market buyers were spared the burden of Purchase Tax (then at 33 per cent) because it was classed as a commercial vehicle. It was initially priced at £450 but doors were extra, as were power take-offs, heater and starting handle. Later, the price went up to £540 with these features included — though with no discount for buyers who did not want them. An early customer was King George VI, who after testing one at Sandringham and Balmoral, ordered the first of many to be used on royal estates.

By October 1948, when an estate version was added, there were Land Rover dealerships in 68 countries, more than those who handled Rover cars. By 1951, Land Rovers outsold the company's cars by two to one. Intended by Maurice Wilks as an agricultural vehicle first and foremost, the Land Rover was soon in demand from industrial users, for whom two variants were made, a Compressor and a Welder.

A fire engine was offered from 1952, but Rover soon found it was better to use specialists for such applications, so factory production was concentrated on the basic models. The 80in wheelbase was increased to 86in in 1954, when a new 107in model joined the range. This two-model policy is still pursued today, current wheelbases being 93in and 110in.

The longer wheelbase allowed for a much greater variety of bodywork and uses, including a seven-seat estate, ambulances, mobile workshops, patrol cars and refuse collectors. From the start, Land Rovers were popular in the Third World; rural doctors in India, safari organisers in Kenya and game wardens in Tanzania are just a few regular users.

Land Rovers joined the Army in 1949 and saw service in Korea between 1950 and 1952. They were widely used by all three services, their tasks including towing of cargo trailers and light support weapons, starting helicopters and light aircraft, generators, light recovery vehicles and radio vans.

An air-portable short wheelbase version was made which could be carried by a Wessex helicopter. Half-track artillery tractors and armoured cars were among other specialised military Land Rovers, the latter being used by the Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland. They have been, or are, in use by the armed forces of 140 countries.

> 'They have been used by the forces in 140 nations'

As well as being assembled in more than 30 countries, Land Rovers have been manufactured in Belgium, Germany and Spain. The Belgian versions came from the Minerva factory, which had made luxury cars before the war. Although production ended in 1956, the Belgian forces stockpiled their Land Rovers, and some of the vehicles only came into service in the 1980s. The Spanish factory, Santana, still makes several models, including some designed for their own market needs.

The Land Rover has evolved steadily over nearly five decades. Among more important landmarks have been a diesel option in 1957, a forward control truck version made from 1962 to 1972, a V8 in 1979, coil springs all round in 1983 and a turbo diesel in 1986. Current models have been called Defenders since 1990, with the more luxurious range being the Discovery, launched in 1989.

The Land Rover is famous not only for what it is but for what it started: the great variety of 4x4 on/off-roaders from Japan and also the luxurious Range Rover, launched in 1970 with the 3.5-litre V8 engine from Rover cars, which also went into the Land Rover nine years later. Its success has been crucial for Rover and without the profits generated by Land Rover, it is unlikely the advanced P6 2000 saloons could have been developed. With just under two million built since 1948, Land Rover is a symbol of Britain all over the world. I purchased one in 1951 and I count myself lucky that we have Number Four of the 25 1947 prototypes on display in the National Motor Museum.

Claire Evans hears a jungle rumble – the Camel Trophy starts today

. . . and still has a way to travel

Two young Britons will stand at the foot of an ancient temple deep in the Central American jungle this morning about to embark on one of the most gruelling expeditions in the world, a test of man . . . and Land Rover.

Mike Oxley and Rob Connor beat 5,000 other hopefuls to take part in the Camel Trophy, a 19-day adventure driving a Land Rover Discovery through the inhospitable rainforests and mountains of the Mundo Maya, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, passing through the Yukatan Peninsula and the Sierra Madre mountains.

They face physical fatigue, infections and heat exhaustion from the intensely humid climate, and even poisonous snakes in the fetid jungles of Belize. It is hardly the usual setting for the Discovery, the darling of the suburban motorist.

For Oxley, 27, a commodities broker from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Connor, 28, an automotive engineer from Lincoln, this is the climax of nine months of rigorous training and tortuous selection heats. They were forced to struggle through 36 hours of freezing, mud-sodden tests at Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire, then six days in the heat of Istanbul — though there was still plenty of mud. They had to drive a terrifying route along taut wires a foot off the ground, cross roof-deep rivers and negotiate slippery banks at a 45-degree angle.

Oxley, who had never ventured off-road before, admitted: "I've learned a lot, most of it the hard way," moments after knocking off a wing-mirror against a tree.

The climax of the gruelling Istanbul tests was an all-night trek through the nearby Belgrade Forest in a 20-vehicle convoy. The teams winched, yanked and shoved the stream of Discoverys along tracks which rain had turned into a quagmire, with ruts up to three feet deep. By dawn the next day, the convoy had covered only about 5 miles in 10 hours. "The closest thing to a real day on the Camel Trophy," warned event director Iain Chapman.

Both men ran and worked out at the gym every day — not a problem for former Olympic windsurfer Oxley, but Connor had to lose more than a stone in six weeks to make himself agile enough to complete the physical tests.

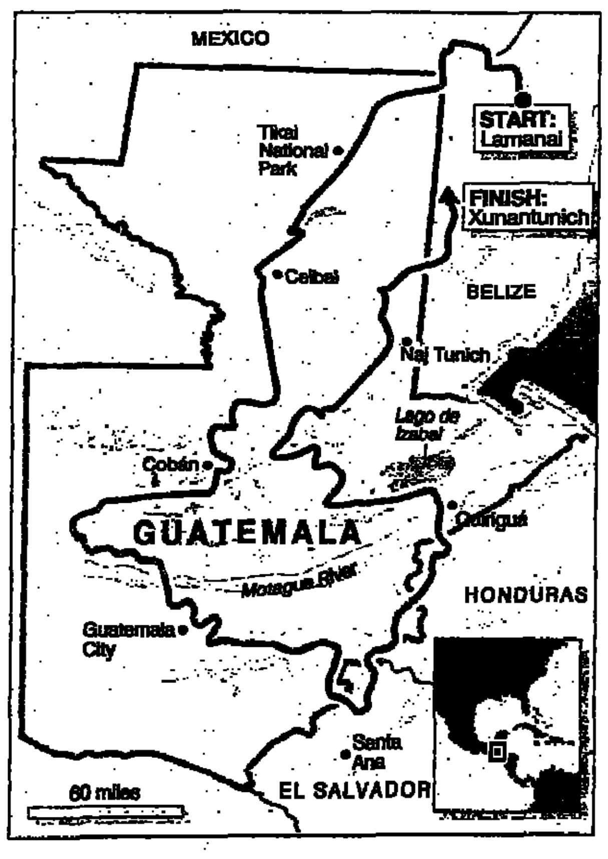
Land Rover has supplied vehicles for the Camel Trophy since it started in 1985. Until 1990, Defenders were used, but this year's competitors will drive the uprated 300 series turbo diesel Discovery.

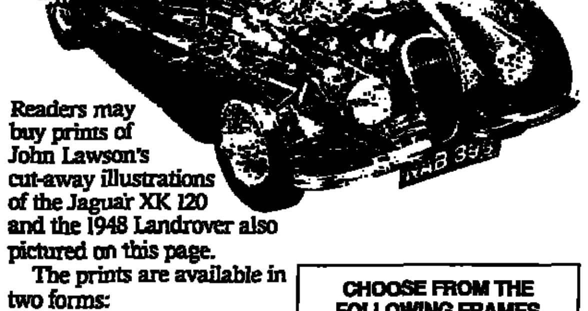
Basically standard machines from the Solihull factory, the Discoverys are fitted with a roll cage that encompasses the roof rack. Aluminium skid plates are attached under the front and rear to protect the fuel tank and steering gear, and a bull-bar, incorporating two extra fog lamps, is bolted to the front with taut wire stretching to the roof to stop branches hitting the windscreen. The air-intake is raised to the top of the windscreen so the vehicle can plough through deep rivers, and the exhaust tail-pipe is modified to take an air jack, a long plastic tube connected to a sturdy bag that goes under the chassis, which inflates to lift the wheels in conditions where it is too muddy to use a normal jack.

Michelin XL tyres, fitted on standard Defender wheels, improve traction in mud, and a second spare wheel and tyre is secured to the back of the vehicle. At the front, an 8,500lb electric winch with interior and exterior controls is added.

The Britons might need the special equipment. Starting at 9.30 this morning, they set out on a 30-hour first stage across Belize, the start of an ordeal that would frighten the daylights out of the traditional Discovery driver.

Claire Evans will be reporting from the Camel Trophy each week.





THE TIMES

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An exhibition of all 12 cars featured by Lord Montagu and sponsored by *Car 95* is running until the end of September at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Present this panel at the gate and one adult will get a £2 reduction on the full admission price.

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1994 (M) 518i SE Arctic Silver/Black Cloth, Alloys, El S/roof, ABS, Air Bags, Through Load System, Stereo	£18,495
1995 (M) 518i SE Touring Cosmos Black/Black Cloth, Double El S/roof, Alloys, ABS, Air bags, Stereo	£20,495
1994 (M) 520i SE Cosmos Black/Grey Cloth, El S/roof, Alloys, ABS, Air Bag, Stereo, 4,781mls	£20,495
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1995 (M) 525 TD Arctic Silver/Black Cloth, El S/roof, Air Bag, ABS, Front Fogs, Stereo, 8,100mls	£19,995
1995 (M) 525i Sport Avus Blue/Light Silver Grey Leather, El S/roof, Alloys, Air Con, Sports Seats, Computer	£30,995
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HOW DOES IT WORK?

Traffic lights: all down to timing

THERE seem to be millions, but in fact there are only 5,000 to 6,000 *sets* of traffic signals at Britain's road junctions (Vaughan Freeman writes).

More than half are "vehicle-actuated", where sensors detect vehicles approaching. The sensors, between 40 and 150 metres from the traffic lights depending on the speed limit, comprise a loop of wire buried an inch or so beneath the road surface and connected to the grey control box next to the traffic lights. The wire emits a faint magnetic field, which, when disrupted by a passing vehicle, sends an electronic signal to the traffic lights.

If there is a gap in the traffic and no vehicles, the signal changes to amber then red to allow vehicles to cross the other way. If the traffic light is at red when a vehicle passes over the detector, it tells the light to change to green.

Signals stay at green for a minimum of seven seconds, but the maximum green time is set by traffic engineers and could be as long as a minute.

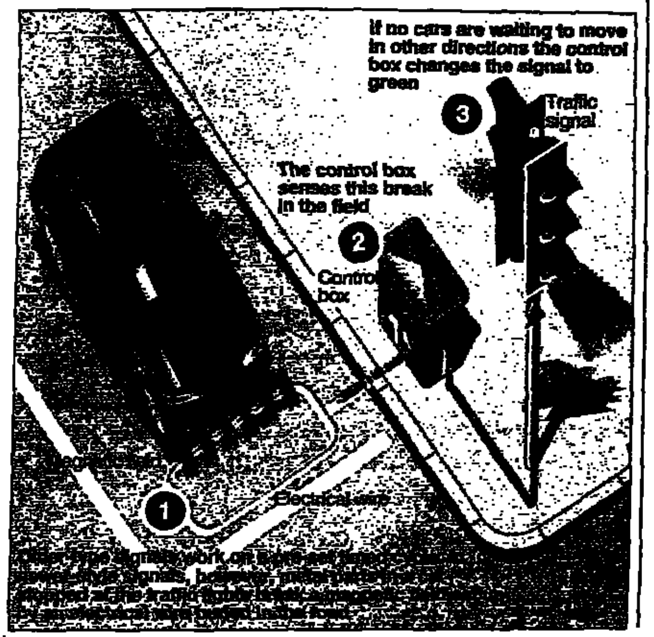
Each set of signals is programmed according to local traffic conditions. Unless these change dramatically — for instance, following the installation of a new road scheme — settings are modified only every two years or so.

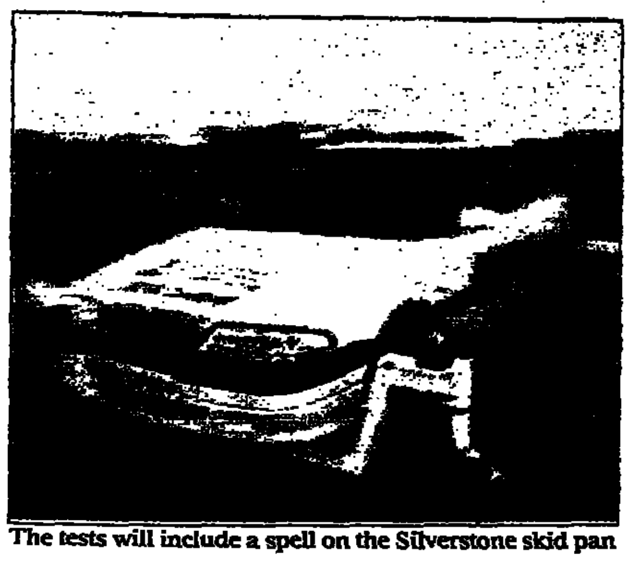
Signals at a junction on a road leading into a busy town, for example, might be set with a 40-second green and a 20-second red phase in the mornings and evenings to give commuter traffic priority. The length of the green phase might then be reduced for the rest of the day and at night, giving more time for traffic to cross the junction going the other way.

The green phase on a busy through road might last up to 90 seconds. On average, the green-to-green cycle takes 120 seconds.

At junctions with pedestrian crossings, the cycle is cut to a maximum of 80 seconds as it has been found pedestrians lose patience and try to cross regardless of the signals if the cycle takes longer.

More sophisticated traffic signals are linked to a central computer which registers traffic densities and can change the signal phases to keep traffic flowing.


If no cars are waiting to move in other directions the control box changes the signal to green
3
Traffic signal
The control box senses this break in the field
2
Control box
1
Electrical wire


The tests will include a spell on the Silverstone skid pan

Steer this way to win a free luxury holiday

Kevin Eason on your last chance to win a top motoring accolade

This is your last chance to join the starting grid in the race to find our Company Car Driver of the Year.

Entries have been pouring in from all over the country from salesmen, company directors, doctors, ambulancemen and even vets for places in the competition, sponsored by *The Times* and Lease Plan, Britain's leading fleet management company with 40,000 vehicles on the road.

Entries have to be in by Wednesday for a chance to win a luxury expenses-paid touring holiday for two in Europe, plus £500 spending money. On the way to the prize, contestants will take part in regional heats which will offer one of the most exciting driving experiences available to any ordinary motorist.

We are looking for 120 teams we can put through their paces on road and track to discover the best of a breed of motorist for whom the car is a way of life. Entries can come from any driver who has to use a car at work, whether he or she cover thousands of miles a week or a few dozen.

Three Cheshire vets will be in the line-up at one of our regional heats. Peter Murphy, Mark Proctor and John Dawson have a practice in Hartford, near Northwich, and spend their days driving from farms to households checking on the health of the region's pets and livestock.

All three admit they are keen drivers — so keen that they sometimes drive too fast.

"The biggest danger up in Cheshire," says Murphy, "is that you will run into another vet on your rounds. We are a collection of fast but very careful drivers and we want to find out how good we are."

Their speed will be checked by examiners from Drive Tech, one of Britain's top training schools, who will demand precision on the roads at the regional heats. That does not mean driving slowly, says Chris Howell. "We like progressive driving so we are moving at the right speeds at the right time, not dawdling along everywhere at 20mph. That is no use to anyone."

If the Cheshire vets are good enough, they could win a place in the final at Silverstone, home of the British Grand Prix, where they will not only be able to drive fast, but will be positively encouraged by instructors from the Silverstone Driving Centre to put their foot down.

They will have to show they can handle one of the £15,000 Nissan Primera 2.0SLX cars that are the chosen model for our tests at high and low speeds and in skids. The Primera, built at Washington, Tyne & Wear, is capable of 127mph, with acceleration to cope with the high-speed manoeuvres that will be demanded on the Silverstone track.

If competitors need to find out how to do it properly, they will be able to ask John Watson, the former McLaren Formula One driver who will be overseeing the final.

The aim is fun — but in the serious cause of helping to make Britain's company car drivers, who have a terrible reputation as uncaring speedsters, safer and better motorists. For fleet managers, the potential reward is free lessons for a dozen of their drivers if their competitors are successful.

The goal is worth achieving and the prizes are worth winning. So fill in the coupon on this page and enter now for *The Times*/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year.

THE TIMES

LEASE PLAN COMPANY CAR DRIVER 1995

Company ....

Address ....

.... Postcode ....

Entrant .... Position ....

Entrant should be the director/senior manager responsible for your company's car fleet.

Tel No .... Fax No ....

Nature of Business ....

No of employees .... No of company cars ....

Nominated drivers

Surname .... Age	Surname .... Age ......
Forename(s)	Forename(s) ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....
Surname .... Age	Surname .... Age ......
Forename(s)	Forename(s) ....
Job title	Job title ....
How long employed .... yrs Points on licence	How long employed .... yrs Points on licence ....

Please select one first and one second choice for the location and date of your team's regional heat (indicate your selection by placing a 1 or 2 within box):

Oxford, (Moat House), 8th June ☐
Nottingham, (Moat House), 14th June ☐
Hereford, (Moat House), 28th June ☐
Ware, Hertfordshire, (Briggens House Hotel) 12th July ☐
Glasgow, (Moat House International), 22nd June ☐
Blackburn, (Moat House), 4th July ☐

Please ensure that you and your nominated drivers are available on both your first and second choice and for the final at Silverstone on Friday, 11th August. Initial qualification will be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

Send completed entries by 24 May, 1995 to: The Times - Lease Plan Company Car Driver 1995, Leedex PR, 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF

COMPETITION RULES

The closing date for entries is 24 May 1995. Drivers must be over 24 years of age to enter. Maximum number of endorsements on any competitors' driving licence is three points. Drivers must bring their current driving licence to their regional heat for confirmation of the above. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Drivers must be nominated in groups of three. Companies can only enter one team to compete. The entrant may nominate him/herself as part of the team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their employment or remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependant on a written test, to be completed by the entrant at their team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Plan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the event, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like may not be permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed by post, at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify for the regional heat, the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the first heat and the team will be placed on a reserve list. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to attend, the next highest scoring driver from that regional heat will be invited to attend in their place. The prize for the winner will be a seven day European motoring holiday for two. The team/company prize will be a driver programme for twelve employees. Cash alternatives are not available. The judges's decision is final.

BMW

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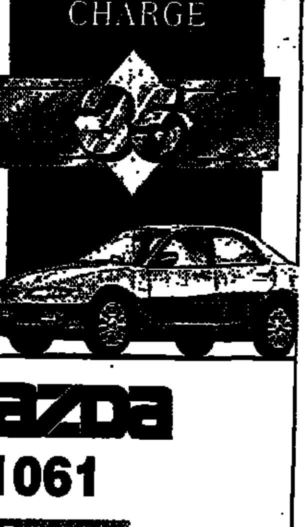

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95M	R/Rover 3.9 Vogue	1T £29,995
93L	R/Rover 4.2 LSE	9T £29,995
94L	R/Rover 3.9 SE	17T £29,995
93L	R/Rover 3.9 SE	7T £27,995
93K	R/Rover 3.9 SE	22T £23,995
91J	R/Rover 3.9 SE	34T £19,995
94M	Discovery TDi ES Auto	2T £24,995
94M	Discovery TDi S 95mdl	7T £20,995
94L	Discovery TDi S 95mdl	16T £19,995
93L	Discovery V8i S Auto	20T £19,995
94L	Discovery 3Dr TDi Auto	13T £17,995

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95M	TDI ES 95mod Silver	3T £27,500
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93K	V8i S Auto Carrigada Green	40T £18,995
93K	V8i S Auto Foxfire red	25T £18,495
94M	V8i ES Auto 95mod Niagra	10T £25,995
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92J	Vogue SE Aspen Silver	43T £22,995
93L	Vogue SE Plymouth blue	27T £28,995
94L	Vogue SE Plymouth blue	5T £32,495
93L	Vogue LSE Ardennes green	25T £28,995
94L	LSE Autobiography Wine red	7T £36,995
94M	LSE Autobiography Red	3T £36,495
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95M	5dr V8i S Caprice	2T £20,750
94L	5dr TDI S 95Mdl Windjammer	12T £20,995
94L	5dr TDI S 95 MdlCarrigada	15T £20,995
94L	5dr Tdi S 15mdl Carrigada	14T £21,995
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94L	4.2 LSE Met	6k £29,995
93K	4.2 LSE Met	31k £26,995
93K	4.2 LSE	26k £24,995
93K	4.2 LSE Black	48k £23,995
93L	3.9 SE A BRG/Stone	48k £25,995

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93L	Vogue A ABS.A.Susp	23k £24,995
94L	Vogue SE 95 Mod	10k £31,995
93K	Vogue SE A Met	44k £21,995
92K	Vogue SE A Met	45k £20,995
92K	Vogue SE A Black	52k £20,995
91J	Vogue SE A Met	46k £19,995

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94M	ES 5D A	8k £27,495
95M	S 5D A	6k £25,995
94M	3D Met, Elec Pack	10k £19,995
93L	5D Met, Good Spec	18k £18,995
92K	5D Met	45k £14,995

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95M	TDI 3D A High Spec	5k £22,495
95M	TDI 3D	3k £19,995
93L	TDI S 5D CD, Alloys	28k £19,995
94L	TDI 3D Elec Pack	16k £16,995
92K	TDI 5D Met	32k £16,995
91J	TDI 5D 7 Seats	43k £15,995
91J	TDI S Good Spec	44k £15,995
92K	TDI 3D High Spec	30k £15,995

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95M (New Mod) 4.6 HSE Auto Biarritz Blue, Granite Leather, 3k	£43,495
94M (New Mod) 4.6 HSE Auto Biarritz Blue, Granite Leather, 12k	£42,495
94M (New Mod) 4.6 HSE Auto Aspen Silver, Granite Leather, 11k	£41,995
95M (New Mod) 4.0 SE Auto Niagara, Granite Leather, Elec S/R 7k	£36,495
94M (95 Mod) Vogue LSE Niagara Grey, Granite Leather, Airbags, 9k	£33,995
94L (95 Mod) Vogue SE Avalon Blue, Granite Leather, Airbags, 15k	£29,995
94L Vogue LSE Ardennes Green, Saddle Leather, 13k	£28,995
93L Vogue SE Plymouth Blue, Winchester Leather, only 9k	£27,995
93L Vogue LSE Beluga Black, Sable Leather, 30k	£27,495
93L Vogue SE Beluga Black, Sorrel Leather, 25k	£26,995

— DISCOVERY —

94M V8i ES A Caprice Met, 6k	£26,495
95M TDI S A Niagara Grey Met, 4k	£23,995
94L TDI S A Carrigada Met, 13k	£21,995
94L TDI S Aegean Blue, 11k	£20,495
94L V8i S A Aegean Blue Met, 13k	£20,495
95M TDI 3Dr White, Elec Pack	£18,995
93K V8i S A Carrigada, 22k	£17,495
93K V8i S A Carrigada A/C, 15k	£17,495
93K V8i S Carrigada Met, 22k	£16,995
93K TDI 5Dr Carrigada Met, 20k	£16,795
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93L	XJS 6.0 A Coupe +++, 11T	£30,950
93K	XJS 4.0 A Coupe 29T	£24,950
91H	XJS 5.3 A Conv 30T	£23,950
92J	XJS 4.0 A Coupe +++, 47T	£19,950
94M	XJS 4.0 A Coupe +++, 2T	£32,950

— DAIMLER —

91J	DAIMLER 4.0 A 19T	£23,950

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94L	SOV 4.0 A +++, 16T	£29,950
94L	SOV 4.0 A +++, 15T	£28,950
93L	SOV 4.0 A +++, 15T	£26,950
93K	SOV 4.0 A +++, 35T	£24,950
93L	SOV 4.0 A +++, 54T	£23,950
92K	SOV 4.0 A +++, 33T	£23,950
92K	SOV 4.0 A +++, 23T	£23,950
92J	SOV 3.2 A +++, 32T	£19,950
90H	SOV 4.0 A +++, 50T	£16,950

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94M	XJ6 3.2 S A Sunroof, 3T	£28,950
94M	XJ6 3.2 S A B.R.G., 4T	£26,950
94M	XJ6 3.2 Gold A A/Con, 13T	£25,950
94L	XJ6 3.2 S A 16T	£22,950
94L	XJ6 3.2 A S/R, Hide, 18T	£22,950
94L	XJ6 3.2 A 19T	£22,950
92J	XJ6 3.2 A S/Roof, 19T	£15,950
93J	XJ6 3.2 A Met Red, 50T	£14,950
91J	XJ6 3.2 A Black, 42T	£14,950
91H	XJ6 3.2 A Metallic, 49T	£13,950

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93L	DAIMLER 6.0	8T £32,995
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94M	XJS 4.0 Convertible	3T £39,995
94L	XJS 4.0 Coupe	4T £31,995
92J	XJS V12 Convertible	17T £27,995
90H	XJS V12 Coupe	34T £14,995
93K	SOV 4.0 Majestic LWB	15T £31,995
94L	SOV 4.0 Auto	3T £29,995
93K	SOV 4.0 Auto	27T £23,995
92K	XJ6 3.2 Auto A/C	35T £15,995

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JAGUAR

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94L	XJ6 3.2 Gold Sapphire	5T £24,995
94L	XJ6 4.0 S Flamenco	12T £28,995
94M	XJ12 6.0 Regency	6T £38,995
94L	XJ6 3.2 Flamenco A/C	20T £22,995
94M	XJ6 3.2 S X300 Flamenco	8T £32,995
95M	SOV 4.0 Sapphire	5T £39,995
93L	SOV 4.0 Jade	20T £29,995
92K	XJR 4.0 Regency	23T £28,995
92J	Daimler 4.0 Solent	38T £23,995
95M	XJS 4.0 Flamenco	4T £37,995
94L	XJS 4.0 Kingfisher	11T £29,995
92K	XJS 4.0 Conv Diamond	33T £26,995
91J	XJS V12 Conv Solent	28T £25,995
90G	XJS 3.6 Gunmetal	44T £13,995

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95	Mod 4.0 Sport Sapphire	9T £34,950
95	Mod XJ6 3.2 A Titanium	5T P.O.A.
93K	SOV 4.0 A Flamenco	18T £27,995
91H	DAIM 4.0 A Regency	47T £16,995
90G	SOV 4.0 A White	52T £14,995

JAGUAR XJS

94M	XJS 4.0 Cpe A Flamenco	13T £31,950
92K	XJS 4.0 Conv Diamond	32T £28,995
92K	XJS 4.0 Cpe A Diamond	21T £24,995
92K	XJS 4.0 Cpe A Black	47T £22,995
93K	XJS 4.0 A Morocco/Mag	£21,995
90H	XJRS 6.0 A Signal Red	35T £19,995
91J	XJS 3.6 M Flamenco	41T £19,995

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92J	XJR 4.0 A Silver	34T £23,995
93K	XJS 4.0 A Conv Flam.	18T £31,995
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90G	SOV 4.0 A Jade	39T £14,995
90G	SOV 4.0 A Solent	47T £13,995
92J	XJS 4.0 A Solent	47T £19,995
93K	XJ6 3.2 A Platinum	47T £18,995
92J	XJ6 3.2 A Diamond	29T £16,995
90G	XJS 3.6 A Diamond	49T £13,995
92J	XJ6 3.2 A Regency	58T £15,995

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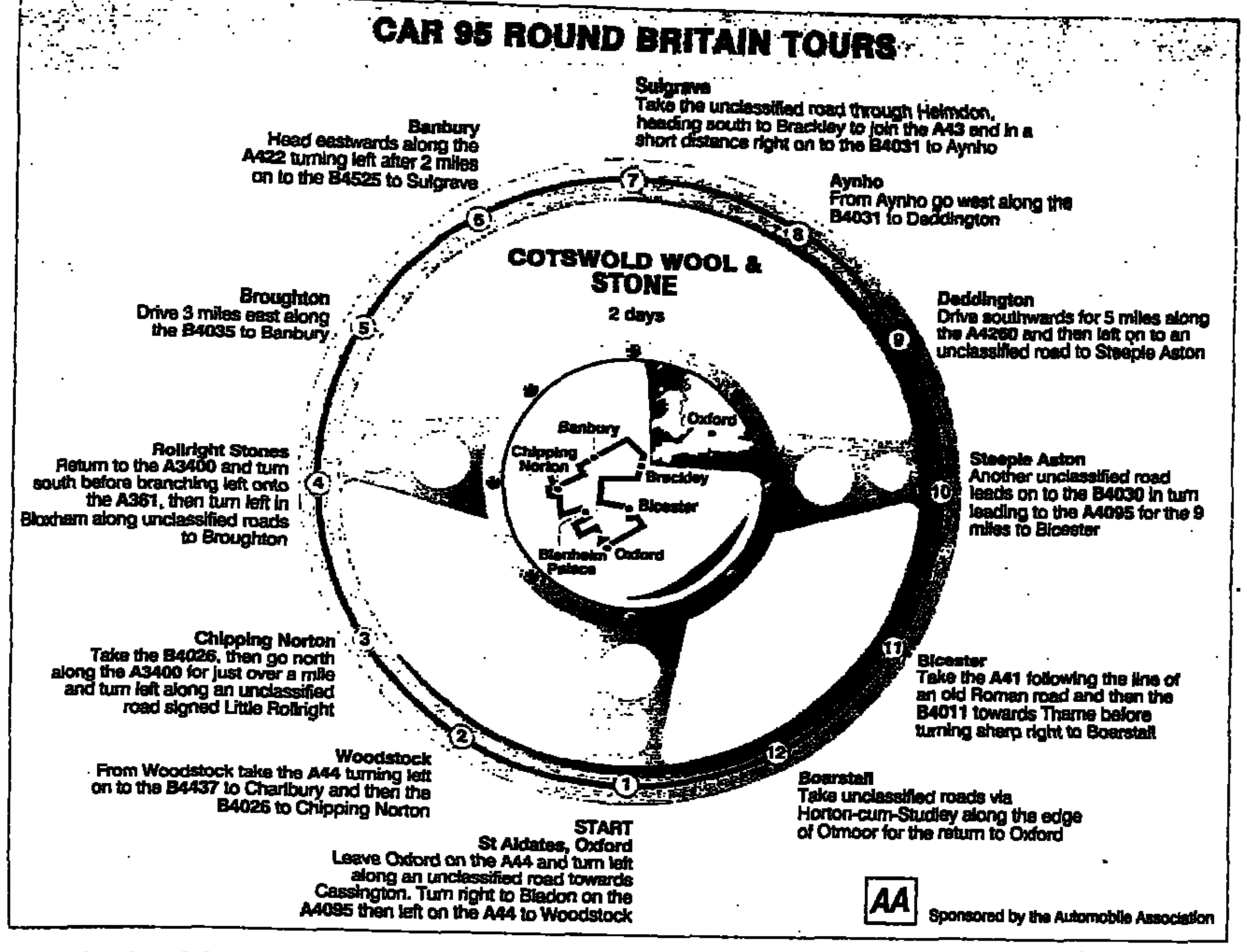
Tony Dawe continues our weekly series of rural rides with a gentle spin through the Cotswolds



CAR 95 ROUND BRITAIN TOURS

COTSWOLD WOOL & STONE
2 days

START
St Aldates, Oxford
Leave Oxford on the A44 and turn left along an unclassified road towards Cassington. Turn right to Bladon on the A4095 then left on the A44 to Woodstock

Woodstock
From Woodstock take the A44 turning left on to the B4437 to Charlbury and then the B4026 to Chipping Norton

Chipping Norton
Take the B4026, then go north along the A3400 for just over a mile and turn left along an unclassified road signed Little Rollright

Rollright Stones
Return to the A3400 and turn south before branching left onto the A361, then turn left in Bloxham along unclassified roads to Broughton

Broughton
Drive 3 miles east along the B4035 to Banbury

Banbury
Head eastwards along the A422 turning left after 2 miles on to the B4525 to Sulgrave

Sulgrave
Take the unclassified road through Helmdon, heading south to Brackley to join the A43 and in a short distance right on to the B4031 to Aynho

Aynho
From Aynho go west along the B4031 to Deddington

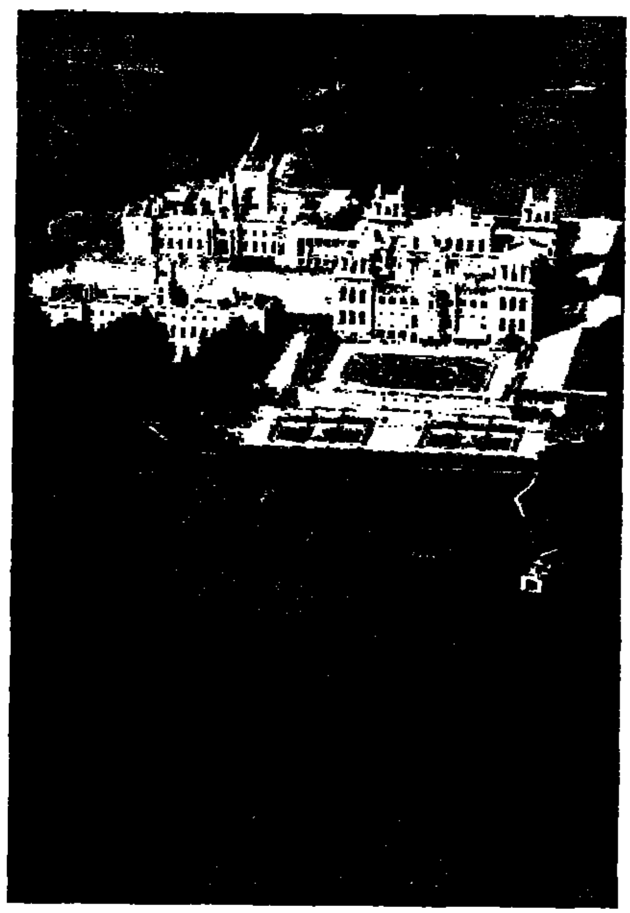
Deddington
Drive southwards for 5 miles along the A4260 and then left on to an unclassified road to Steeple Aston

Steeple Aston
Another unclassified road leads on to the B4030 in turn leading to the A4095 for the 9 miles to Bicester

Bicester
Take the A41 following the line of an old Roman road and then the B4011 towards Thame before turning sharp right to Boarstall

Boarstall
Take unclassified roads via Horton-cum-Studley along the edge of Otmoor for the return to Oxford

Sponsored by the Automobile Association



Blenheim Palace: a fantastically grand stately home given as a reward for a great military triumph

Giants of history haunt an enchanted landscape

Thoughts of the Cotswolds conjure up images of rolling countryside and charming villages in honey-coloured stone, but a tour of the area provides more than English scenery at its best: it offers an insight into the lives of some of our greatest figures and one of America's most famous sons.

Our tour starts in Oxford where generations of world leaders have been educated, most recently Margaret Thatcher and Bill Clinton. With 100 miles of driving ahead of us, it is good to know the city's colleges and churches can best be explored on foot.

Magdalen College, built in the 15th century, is the most beautiful, with its tower, quads and deer park, and a visit can be followed by punting down the Cherwell from Magdalen Bridge. St Michael's Saxon church is Oxford's oldest building and there are a host of museums to discover, covering everything from medieval manuscripts to musical instruments.

The route to Woodstock makes a detour to encompass Bladon, which has Sir Winston Churchill's simple grave in its churchyard. Near Woodstock, an earlier leader is remembered at Blenheim Palace, a fantastically grand stately home given to the Marlborough family by Queen Anne as a reward for the first Duke's victory over the French at Blenheim in 1704. State rooms, the library and a Churchill exhibition are on view, and the grounds have a number of attractions for children

The next stopping points take us even further back in time. Chipping Norton, its broad high street now lined with stylish shops, developed as a market town for sheep farmers who paid for the fine medieval church. The Rollright Stones date from the Bronze Age, when this circle of stones with a 100ft diameter was almost as important as Stonehenge.

Broughton Castle seems positively modern in comparison, but with its moat and peaceful setting is one of Britain's picture-book buildings.

Designed as a medieval fortified manor, it retains the original Great Hall but was turned into a stylish Elizabethan House by the Fiennes family, ancestors of the present owners, Lord and Lady Saye and Sele.

It has seen its share of excitement, notably during the Civil War, but even last year its massive gates were shut by an enterprising member of the family to trap a couple of villains trying to mingle with visitors while on the run from the police. Nearby, a public footpath provides access to the 18th-century landscaped garden being restored at Wroxton Abbey.

Past Banbury Cross, famous in the nursery rhyme, the tour heads for Sulgrave Manor, a most unlikely place to have played a part in American history. It was the home of George Washington's ancestors for 120 years before his grandfather emigrated, yet is an intriguing small stone manor set in an attractive garden without a hint of brashness.

The route returns south through quiet farming country and attractive stone villages such as Aynho and Deddington, with the remains of a 12th-century castle and a remarkable church with eight pinnacles.

Beyond Steeple Aston, a regular winner of best-kept village competitions, lies Rousham House, a Jacobean mansion with a magnificent park and gardens. The Romans built a settlement just south of Bicester and a Roman road leads the way towards Boarstall, a tiny hamlet boasting a splended stone gatehouse once part of a 14th-century fortified house.

Based on AA Tour Guide Britain, £9.99 from AA shops and booksellers.

Treasures of Britain, main section, page 11

DR DASHBOARD

Break free of bars that kill

Q If the Prime Minister is worried, should I be concerned about fitting bull-bars to my 4x4?

A In a word, yes. John Major was as surprised as safety experts to discover just how dangerous bull-bars can be. So dangerous, in fact, that legislation is on its way to make them safer.

Q This sounds like scaremongering to me. Bars have been on 4x4s for years, so why shouldn't we fit them if we want to?

A Why fit them in the first place? Who are they supposed to be protecting? Bull-bars, or roo bars, were originally put on to Land Rovers to protect them from stray branches and oncoming Rhinos. In Australia, roo bars were vital to stop damage from kamikaze kangaroos — hardly a problem in the urban jungle.

Q But they look nice on big four-wheel-drive vehicles.

A Come off it: they look silly. Bull-bars are a triumph of marketing, and fashion over common sense. Apparently, 75 per cent of 4x4s are sold with bull bars fitted. Yet they weigh up to 40 kilogrammes and present a fiercesome hazard to pedestrians who get in the way.

Q Surely anybody hit by a 4x4 is in serious trouble, whether there are bull-bars fitted or not.

A Yes, but the Department of Transport rates your chances of being killed or severely injured much higher if bull-bars are fitted. People hit by a car at 20mph have a good chance of surviving even if they are injured. However, tests at the Government's Transport Research Laboratory show that somebody hit by a 4x4 fitted with bull-bars could be killed at speeds as low as 12mph. The tests were so conclusive, the scientists didn't even bother to continue them at higher speeds. At least 35 people a year are killed by bull-bars — 15 of them children, who are most vulnerable because their heads are in line with the steel crossbar.

Q Is that why John Major has become involved in the argument over whether they should be banned?

A Yes. A growing number of MPs want bull-bars banned but there are problems, thanks to one of those classic Euro-wrangles we so love. The bars remain legal so long as they are sanctioned by the European Community, so they cannot be banned unless ministers find a way around the legislation. Steven Norris, the roads minister, has condemned the bars outright.

Q Does that mean we should just forget about them altogether?

A Unless you have a specific need for them, yes. European legislation, governing the size and materials that should be used, will not be in place for about five years. In the meantime, if you must have them, choose some of the "softer" bars just going on sale.

Q What are they, and where can I get them?

A Ask your dealer or manufacturer. Mitsubishi, Suzuki and Ford are among the first to market "soft" bars. Mitsubishi's bars (cost £446) deform if they hit something soft and fragile — like you or me.

PERFORMANCE CARS

LOTUS Carlton Turbo. March 92. Imperial Green. Leather Trim. Excellent Cond. FSH. 27,000 mls. Will be Offered for sale at BRS Car Auctions Thursday 25th May 12.00 pm together with other prestige vehicles. For Further Details Tel Coventry (01203) 511150.

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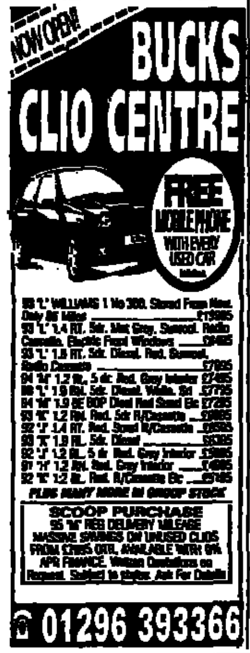

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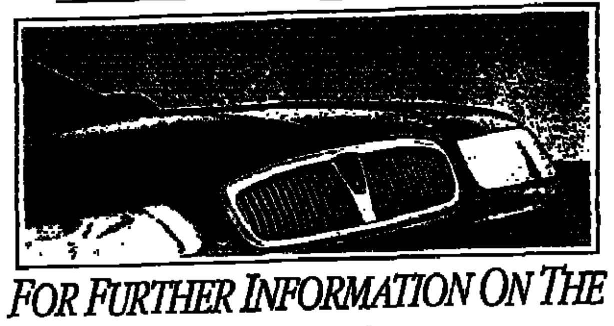

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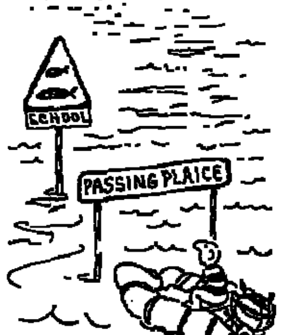

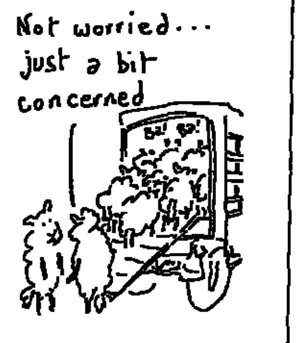
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GED MELLING

Vaughan Freeman finds that car finance deals may be a better option than a wad of notes

Paying in cash can be rash

Slapping a teetering pile of £10 notes on to a car dealer's negotiating table is thought by most motorists to be a sure-fire way of winning an instant discount.

Consumers who would cringe at the idea of asking for a cash discount when buying underwear at Marks & Spencer become steely-eyed negotiators when they step into a car showroom.

All the world believes that the crinkle of used notes immediately induces a salesman to knock a sizeable percentage off the asking price, particularly when it saves him or her a mountain of paperwork covering the zero interest loan.

Lombard Motor Finance, the car purchase specialist, warns that motorists who plunder their building society and saving accounts to offer cash in the hope of winning a valuable discount are more likely to lose money and damage their financial flexibility, while doing little that might encourage the dealer to cut the car's price.

Neil Tomkin, Lombard's marketing director, says: "A cash sale offers no benefits to most motor dealers. Bargain hunters should beware that they do not waste their cash reserves, as the car price will not necessarily come down when they offer cash.

"Many customers like to try and knock dealers down on the price by offering cash, yet they wouldn't dream of doing it when buying anything else. Just like any other retailer, cash offers no advantages to a motor dealer — in fact, sales which are on credit are more straightforward, so a dealer is not likely to respond to a cash sale by lowering the price."

Tomkin adds: "If the cash is your savings, look carefully at the interest you will lose by using up your hard-saved funds, and compare that with the cost of motor finance. Purchasers may be surprised at how low the cost of motor finance actually is when you take into account the interest you could earn which you are giving up.

"If the cash is a loan or an overdraft from the bank, you may be using up your valuable bank borrowing capacity to buy a car. You would normally be better off using one of the motor finance products available through reputable motor dealers and saving your hard-earned cash for a rainy day".

Neil Marshall, chief economist with the Retail Motor Industry Federation, concedes that consumers may be suspicious about opting for finance packages when they earn the dealer bonus payments, but he says such worries are groundless.

"You have only to open a newspaper to see the plethora of financial packages on offer, and dealer and manufacturer packages must compete," he says. "Bear in mind, for instance, that Ford Motor Credit turns over more than New Zealand's gross domestic product, and you can see why their products are competitive. "Car buyers do not have to accept anybody's credit; they are free to shop around and to take anyone's credit deal."

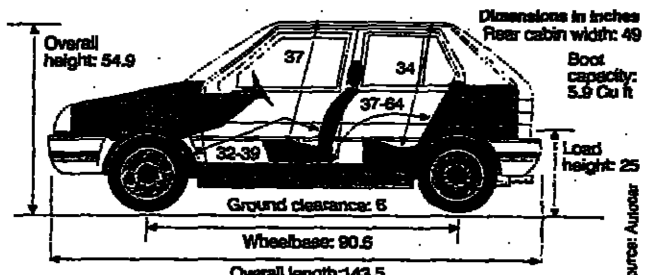
Such deals, says Marshall, allow motorists to plan spending and to budget, via fixed-rate credit schemes. "Such a move towards planned expenditure seems very sensible," he says. "The forecast of a move away from cash by car buyers, a trend already seen in America, is probably quite correct."

Dealers who have invested hundreds of thousands of pounds in premises, staff, training and stock are unlikely to slash the price of a car simply when faced with a pile of £10 notes that wouldn't pay the electricity bill for a month. Careful consideration of the finance packages on offer from such a dealer, however, or of the range of reputable HP and personal loans available, might well prove a cannier way of buying a car in the long run.

Marshall says the move away from cash is epitomised by so-called Personal Contract Purchase packages, such as those run by big manufacturers like Ford, under which motorists do not own the car. They effectively lease, sacrificing the benefits — and responsibilities — of ownership in return for knowing exactly how much their monthly car expenses will be.

USED CAR BRIEF

GENERAL INTRODUCTION: The Micra, here in 1983, fast became a firm favourite with driving schools as they were easy to drive. A cosmetic make-over in 1985 introduced restyled tailgate, rear lights and front grille, and in 1987 came the first 5-door, 1-litre cars, the Colette and SGL. The 1.2-litre engines arrived in 1989, with five-speed manual and three-speed automatic alternatives. Range replaced with taller, more bulbous model, made in Britain, two years ago.



Source: Autocar

GOOD NEWS: Micra helped establish solid reputation of Nissan as a manufacturer of resoundingly dependable and trouble-free small cars. Superb fuel economy and low insurance premiums make for economical motoring, especially if the car is accompanied by a service history.

BAD NEWS: Dependable yes, exciting no. Micra does not set the heart a-leaping. Early cars may show rust around wheel arches, tailgate and bonnet. Check that all-aluminium engine has used recommended anti-freeze mixture otherwise may suffer from overheating, and camshaft belt has been changed at recommended intervals.

OVERALL: Straight boxy lines betray dated design, but a cared-for model will give excellent, reliable, shoe-string budget motoring without worries about unexpected nasty surprises. Not a car for furniture removers however.

LOOK FOR: Low mileage, sub-70,000 mile cars are advised. Post-1989 cars a good idea and seek out the slightly more powerful 60bhp 1.2-litres, which offer better performance, though top speed still short of 100mph, without any concession to fuel consumption of between 43mpg in town and 63mpg at a steady 56mph.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800-444777) on a 1989 1.2-litre Micra costs 55-year old professional, male or female, with full no claims bonus, living in Winchester, £87 a year, fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male living in London with a years no claims bonus will pay £654 a year fully comprehensive, and a similar female will pay £585.

SAFETY RATING: The Micra rates around 10 per cent below the average for similar sized cars in the Department of Transport Choosing Safety report, scoring slightly better than the Citroën 2CV and the Rover Mini, but behind the Peugeot 205 and Renault 5.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): Cambelt £80, front wing £75, headlamp unit £70, clutch assembly £105, front indicator £20, front brake pads £30.

AVOID: Many learner drivers did their first clutch-destroying kangaroo hops in a Micra, so beware ex-driving school cars, and power-deprived 1.0-litre models. Three-door versions are tight for space in the rear.

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay around £1,000 for a 1986 C-reg 1.0-litre 3-door, £3,000 for a 1989 F-reg 1.2-GS 5-door, £5,500 for a 1992 K-reg 1.2-LX 3-door, and £6,150 for a 1992 K-reg 1.2-SLX 5-door.

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE		
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Rover 820 Si 4dr	13595	13250	-2.53
Nissan Primera 2.0 SGX 5dr	10395	10395	0
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	12450	12250	-1.60
Mazda 626 1.8 GLX 5dr	10795	10495	-2.77
Volvo 480 2.0 ES 3dr	12250	18505	-3.26
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SRi 16V 5dr	10750	10895	1.34
Ford Mondeo 2.0 Si 4dr	10450	10450	0.00
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10450	10450	0.00
Citroën Xantia 1.8i SX 5dr	10895	10895	0.00
Chrysler Wrangler 4.0 2dr	12650	12550	-0.79
Subaru Legacy 2.0 GL Est	12450	12395	-0.44
Saab 900 2.0i S 5dr	14250	14250	0.00
Renault Espace 2.0 RN 5dr	14650	14550	-0.68
Peugeot 405 GLD Est	10150	10150	0.00
Nissan 200 SX 3dr	13695	13450	-1.78
Toyota Carina E Executive 5dr	12495	12495	0.00
Suzuki Vitara JLX 3E 3dr	10950	10950	0.00
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLSi 4dr	9725	9550	-1.79
Hyundai Sonata 2.0 GLX 4dr	10450	9995	-4.35
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia Auto 4dr	13495	13495	0.00
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	11150	11150	0.00
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth 4dr	14750	14550	-1.35
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomat 5dr	13750	13550	-1.45
Rover 620 Si 4dr	12750	12550	-1.56
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12250	12150	-0.81
Peugeot 605 SLi 4dr	12150	12150	0.00
Nissan Serena 2.0 SLX 7str est.	13495	13495	0.00
Audi 80 2.0 E 4dr	12550	12550	0.00
Citroën 2.0 ZX 16V 3dr	10595	10595	0.00
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	12095	12095	0.00
Ford Escort RS 2000 3dr	12195	12095	-0.82
Honda Civic ESi 3dr	10150	9875	-2.70
Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi 5dr	10350	10350	0.00
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	11150	11150	0.00
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Executive 5dr	11795	11695	-0.84
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i Convertible	11695	11395	-2.56
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	12795	12495	-2.34
Mazda 323 1.6 GLX (SR) 5dr	10395	10395	0.00
Renault 19 16V 3dr	10495	10195	-2.85
Subaru Impreza 1.8 GL Est	11150	11195	0.44
Vauxhall Calibra 16V 3dr	14095	13750	-2.44
Vauxhall Carlton 2.0 CDXi Auto 4dr	14650	14295	-2.42
Citroën XM 2.0i Est	14150	13795	-2.50
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL 3dr	14450	14395	-0.38
Ford Escort 1.8 Ghia TD Est	10495	10250	-2.33
Honda Accord 2.0i LS Coupé 2dr	13850	13450	-2.88
Audi 100 2.0 E 4dr	14095	13750	-2.44
Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i 4dr	14195	13695	-3.52
Mitsubishi V6 24V Coupé 5dr	13450	13195	-1.89
Rover 216 Cabriolet 2dr	12795	12595	-1.56

CAP NATIONWIDE MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

*Prices rounded to simulate forecourt prices. HS = hatchback. S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by **CAP Nationwide Motor Research**.*

WOMEN DRIVERS are being offered discounts of up to 25 per cent with one of Britain's big direct insurers as the war for customers intensifies in the car showrooms.

Insurance has become a key marketing device among manufacturers with Citroën the latest to enter the fray, offering free cover on AX and ZX models sold until the end of August.

However, the direct insurers are refusing to be punched out of the market with their own range of incentives and discounts. Touchline Insurance says it is increasing the usual 15 per cent discount available to women drivers up to as high as 25 per cent.

Sandy Dunn, Touchline's managing director, says the discounts reward claims which are consistently "significantly lower" than those for male drivers.

Meanwhile, Preferred Direct is offering a 10 per cent discount on tyres, exhausts and batteries bought by customers at any Central Tyre depot.

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94L	C180 Eleg Polar White	11T £21,250	94M	C220 Sport Brilliant Silver	9T £26,950	94L	E320 Cabrio Blue Black	15T P.O.A.
94M	C200 Eleg Silver	11T £23,950	93L	C250D Classic Pearl Blue	16T £22,950	94M	E320T Almandine Red, AC	4T £39,950
94L	C200 Eleg Pearl Blue	6T £23,950	94L	C250D Eleg Rosewood	13T £24,850	94M	S280 Azurite	14T £43,950
94M	C200 Eleg Silver	14T £23,950	94L	E200 Imperial Red	11T £22,950	94M	SL280 Polar White	3T £52,500
94M	C220D Eleg Imperial Red	10T £21,950	94M	E220 Dark Blue	10T £25,750	91H	300SL Arctic White	38T £39,950
94M	C220 Eleg Black	7T £25,650	93L	E320C Pearl Blue	21T £36,950	89G	500SL Blue Black, H/Spec	45T £31,250

0181 560 2151 AFTER HOURS 0831 812245

92J	190E 2.0 Bornite	28T £15,250	94M	E200 Smoke Silver	10T £21,950	94L	E320 Est Almandine	16T £38,950
94L	C180 Eleg Brilliant Silver	11T £19,950	90H	200TE Dark Blue	48T £15,950	94M	S280 Brilliant Silver	7T £41,950
94L	C200 Eleg Blue Black	9T £22,950	94M	E200 Est Tourmaline	7T £25,450	92K	400SE Blue Black	37T £44,950
94M	C200 Sport Brilliant Silver	12T £23,950	95M	E220 Estate Blue Black	7T £28,500	93L	S600 Coupe Signal Red	10T P.O.A.
94M	C220 Eleg Imperial Red	12T £24,950	92J	230CE Black	42T £24,950	89G	500SL Almandine	62T £26,950
94M	C220 Sport Azurite Blue	14T £25,750	94M	E280 Onyx Grey	11T £31,950	94M	S600 Limo Onyx Grey	13T P.O.A.
93K	200E Pearl Blue	20T £20,950	90H	300CE 24V Impala	44T £25,950	93L	600SEL Nautic Blue	10T £55,950

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93K	190E 1.8 Pearl Blue	24T £15,950	92K	300D Pearl Blue, Lth	36T £20,950	92J	300SE Nautic Blue	18T £26,950
92J	190E 2.0 Malachite	29T £16,750	93L	E320 Brilliant Silver	14T £32,950	91J	420SEC Smoke Silver	41T £31,950
92J	200E Brilliant Silver	31T £16,950	92J	200TE Dark Blue, AC	42T £18,950	86C	280SL Black	37T £20,950
94L	E200 Imperial Red	7T £19,950	93L	E280T Pearl Blue	24T £29,950	89F	300SL White	30T £29,950
94M	E220 Blue Black	10T £22,950	94M	E280T Azurite Blue	10T £26,950	89F	300SL Diamond Blue	22T £29,950
92K	280E Brilliant Silver	34T £23,750	94M	E300DT Imperial Red	12T £30,950	89G	420SL White	38T £29,950
93L	E280 Pearl Blue, Lth	23T £26,950	93L	320CE Blue Black	16T £37,950	93K	600SEC Brilliant Silver	29T £69,950

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190E 1.8 Auto. 1993(K). Arctic white/black cloth. esr, a/b, abs. r/cassette. 1 owner. 27,000mls. fsh. full main dealer facilities. excellent value. £14,800. 0181 653 7177 Mon-Sat.T

90 H SL. Silver. Blue Cloth. Stereo. 33,000 Mls. £39,995. Vardy 01233 411511.

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92J 190D 2.5 Almandine, Med Red Cloth, Auto, ABS, ESR & EW and Detachable towbar, 31,000 miles £16,995
94M C180 Eleg Trade Green, Cream Cloth, Auto, ESR & EW, Steam, Only 1 Owner, 9,800 mls £24,495
94L E280 Nautic Blue, Cream Cloth, Auto, Elec S/roof & Elec Windows, Walnut, One Owner, 4,000 miles £28,495
94L SL280 Brill Silver, Black Lthr, Auto, Air Cond, Htd Front Seats, Alloy Wheels, 8,000 miles £51,995
91 H 300CE Blue Black, Grey Lthr, A/Con, 15 Hole Alloys, ABS, Stereo, 45000 miles £24995
93K 600SEL Almandine, Mushroom Lthr, Full Spec, Only One Owner, 38,000 miles £59,995
Cheltenham
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After Hours
0973 560794

200E 16V Auto 1993(L). Almandine red/black cloth, esr + windows, a/b, 1 owner, 27,000 mls. fsh. full main dealer facilities. unbeatable price. £18,998. 0181 653 7177 Mon-Sat.T

93L SL320 Blue/Black. Cream Hide. CD Player, Climate, Rear Seat. 16,000 mls £54,995 Vardy 01233 411511.

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500SEC 87 Blue black, air ++ 85T £15,900
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E320 Coupe A 93L Nautic, ltr, alloys 8T £39,900
E280T 16V A 95M Smoke, air ++ 8T £27,900
230TE A 94J Anthracite, grey cth 28T £16,500
E280 24V A 95M Almandine, lth, CD +8T £30,900
320E 24V A 94 Blue black met +++ 15T £31,900
E300D A 95M Almand, ltr, cruise ++ 7T £30,900
280D A 93K Smoke, ltr, walnut ++ 40T £22,400
300E A 91J Blue black met, alloys + 58T £18,900
280E A 87E White, black cloth, esr 59T £12,500
190E 2.6 A 91 Anthracite, ltr ++ 80T £14,900
190E 2.0 A LE 93L Azzuro, LTD ED 10T £19,800
190E 1.8 A 92K Almandine, air ++ 22T £15,800
190E 1.8 5 Speed 93 M'night, air ++ 20T £14,500
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230TE Auto. 1991(J). Arctic white/blue cloth, rls. a/c. esr. alloys. 1 owner, 34,000mls. superb family value. full main dealer facilities. £19,250. 0181 653 7177 Mon-Sat.T

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C180 94 (L) Elegance auto £18,995
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C180 94 (M) Sport auto, 6T £22,995
C220 (L) Elegance auto, a/c £24,995
C280 95 (M) A/c, lthr £32,995
E220 95 (M) Auto, sunroof £21,995
E280 (M) Estate rear seat £24,995
E300 95 (M) Diesel auto, seat £26,995
220CE (93) White, air con, 20T £24,995
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94M C180 Elegance Met 13T £20,950
95M C220 Elegance Auto Met 2T £26,950
93K 280E 16V Auto Met, esr, ews 16T £28,950
92J 230E Auto Met, esr 21T £18,950
93K 220E Auto Met, ww, 8 h/alloys 31T £20,950
94L E200 Auto esr, ews, esr 12T £21,950
94M E200 Auto Met, esr 8T £22,950
94L E220 Auto Met, 2 x Airbags 9T £22,950
94L E220 Auto Met, 2 x Airbags 11T £22,950
95M E220 Auto ww, esr 1T £25,950
92K 280E Met, 8 h/alloys, ww 28T £22,950
92K 300E 24V Met, hide, a/c 42T £25,950
94M E320 Met, hide, elws 1T £36,950
94M E300 Diesel Auto Met, ww 2T £27,950
91H 230TE Auto Met, rs, esr 45T £18,950
92K 230TE Auto Met, a/c, rs 14T £24,950
94L E320T a/c, R/Seat, 8 h/alloys 17T £37,950
94L E220C Auto Met, thr 12T £29,950
93K 320CE AMG, Full Spec 56T £32,950
94L E320C Met, hide, 8 h/alloys 9T £41,950
94M S280 Met, hide, 8 h/alloys 17T £42,950
92J 400SE Met, hide, High Spec 41T £42,950
91J 500SE Met, hide, 8 h/alloys 41T £42,950
93K 500SE Met, hide, 8 h/alloys 45T £44,950
94L SL320 Hide, R/Seat, 8 h/alloys 23T £58,950
90H 500SL Full Spec 33T £48,950
94L SL500 Full Spec 16T £67,950
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320E Auto, 5 spd. 1993(K). Blue black/mushroom lthr. c/c. 8 hole alloys. boot spoiler. 37,000mls. fsh. performance with practicality. full main dealer facilities. £26,800. 0181 653 7177 Mon-Sat.T

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95M S280 S/silver 5T £46,995
93K 300SL White 5T £45,995
90H 300SL 24V White 40T £41,995
93L E320 Cpe B/Black 33T £36,995
91H 500E B/Black 46T £34,995
93L E320 Est B/Black 41T £34,995
94L 320E Sal Malachite 14T £31,995
94M E280 Sal Almandine 10T £29,995
95M E300D Sal Onyx 9T £29,995
92J 300CE Bornite 59T £21,995
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0378 736010

91 H 500 SL Pearl Blue. Grey Hide. Air Con. ASR. CD Player. Mem Seats. 48,000 mls. £47,995. Vardy 01233 411511.

94 L S280 Nautic Blue. Grey. ESR. HLWW. 8 holes. 13,000 Mls. £37,995. Vardy 01233 411511.

500SE (93) Almandine, grey lthr. air mem.el.htd seats. 8 holes. many special features. 17,000mls £62,900. Pentagon 01934 641616

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320CE Cab 93L. Silver, blk lthr. cruise. 5sp auto. 8 holes. otgs++ 16,000mls £43,900. Pentagon 01934 641616

220CE (93) K Leather. air con. alloys. 20,000m £24,995. Good exchange wanted 0181 767 1422

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E320 Est Auto. 1994(L). Rosewood/mushroom lthr. rls. c/c. 8 hole alloys. 1 owner. 14,000 mls. fsh. huge saving against new. full main dealer facilities. £33,000. 0181 653 7177 Mon-Sat.T

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95M S280 Blue, Alloys, Climate, Closing Aids 6T £41,950
94M E36 Coupe Silver, A/Con, Leather, E.P Seat 1T £51,950
95M E280 Estate Blue, Auto, Leather, Sportline, R.Seat 8T £37,950
94L E220 Estate, White, Auto, R.F. Seat, Walnut 17T £27,950
94L E280 Silver, Air Cond, Leather, Stereo 14T £29,950
91J 230CE White, Auto, A/Con, E/Seat, Walnut 32T £24,950
95M C180 Esprit Blue, ESR, R.H. Rests, R.E. Winds 10T £20,950
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89F 300SL Signal Red, Hide, Auto, Wal, Alloys, Superb 30T £28,995
89F 300SL Blue Black, Grey Hide, 'A', R/Seat, Superb 31T £26,995
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95M E300D Est Almandine, Cloth, 'A', A/Bs, A/C, Alm, R/St, Wal, IVM's 6T £31,995
95M E220 16V Coupe Tormaline, Cr Hide, 'A', RHR, FAR, Wal, Alls, R/St 1T £32,995
93L E320 24V Coupe SpitLine, 5Sp 'A', Malachite, Cr Hide, 8H, IMM 13T £36,995
92J G Wagon 300GES B/Black, Grey, 'A', ESR, W/Alloys, Alm, R/St 36T £19,995
94L C220 Spt B/Silver, Black, ESR, Alloys, A/Bag, EW x 4, Alm, R/St 8T £23,995
93L 190E 2.0 LE Silver, Black, 'A', Wal, A/Bag, 8H, RHR, FAR, Alm 17T £18,995
93K 190E 1.8 LE Rosso, Cream, 'A', 8 H, ESR, EW x 4, FAR, Wal, A/B 18T £16,995
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93L 500SL Blue Black, Cream Hide, Air Con, BAW 29T £54,995
94M E280T ESTATE Azurite Blue, Cream Hide, C.C, 5Spd AT, ASR, R.F.St 6T £41,995
95M E280 Silver, Black Hide, 5Spd Auto, Air Con ELF.Sts, BAW 8T £32,995
94L E280 Black, Grey Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, WV, OTG, Stereo 16T £26,995
94L E220 Silver, Blue Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, WV, A.Bags 19T £22,995
92J 320E Blue Black, Grey Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, Stereo 16T £18,995
92J 230TE Silver, Black Cloth, AT, R.F.St, FAR, WV 18T £21,995
94L E220 EST, White, Black Cloth, AT, ESR, EW2, WV, LSW 13T £22,995
94M E220 EST. Silver, Blue Cloth, AT, Air Con, R.F.St, WV 5T £27,995
94M C280 ESPRIT White, Blue Cloth, 5 Spd Man, ESR, EW2, RHR 8T £26,495
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94L C180 ELEGANCE Silver, Blue Cloth, Auto, Air Con, IMM, Stereo/CD 20T £22,995
90H 300E 24v Nautic Blue, Cream Hide, Sportline Susp, C.C, Stereo 69T £18,995
91H 300E 24v Silver, Grey Hide, Sportline Susp, C.C, Htd Seats, Stereo 59T £19,995
91J 300TD Pearl Grey, Grey Cloth, AT, R.F.St, WV, Stereo 64T £18,995
89F 300SE Diamond Blue, Blue Hide, Air Con, AW, C.C 47T £15,995
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90 H 300 SL Silver Alloys, Radio Cassette £39,995
94 L S 280 Nautic Blue, Alloys £37,995
95 M E 220 T Imperial Red, Grey Cloth Rear Seat, Auto £29,995
91 J 300 CE 24V Malachite, Cream Hide EDS / Speed Auto AMG £27,995
95 M C200 ELEG Tourmaline, Mushroom Cloth, Auto 8 Hole Alloys, Alarm, Stereo £25,995
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E220 (L) 93 Blue Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, Walnut, 8 Holes 9T £22,950
E200 (L) 94 Midnight Blue/ Grey Cloth, Auto, Sunroof, E/Windows 24T £21,950
320TE (K) 93 Almandine/Black Hide, Air Con, Sportline, ASD, R/Seat 33T £33,950
300TE (K) 92 Pearl Grey/Grey Cloth, Air Con, R/Seat, Airbags 30T £27,950
300TE 24V (G) 90 Nautic Blue/Cream Hide, R/Seat, ASD, Alloys 48T £21,950
E280T (L) 94 Blue Black/Cream Cloth, Auto, E/Sunroof 12T £30,950
E220T (L) 93 Black/Cream Cloth, Auto, R/Seat, FCA, Alloys 29T £25,950
230TE (J) 92 Blue Black/Grey Cloth, 8H Alloys 25T £20,950
C250D Esprit (M) 94 Blue Black/Black Cloth, 5 Speed, ESR, Stereo 3T £21,950
C200 Elegance (M) 94 White/Grey Cloth, Auto, Rear Head Rests 2T £22,950
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94 E220C High Spec £28,995
92 230CE Good Spec £25,995
85 230CE Good Spec £10,995
94 E300D Auto, High Spec £28,995
95 E280 High Spec £35,995
K 260E Good Spec £23,995
92 230E Auto, High Spec £19,995
M E220 Auto, Good Spec £28,995
L 230E Auto, Good Spec £22,995
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92K 190E 2.6 Blue 40T £15,995
94L C180 Eleg B/Black 14T £20,495
94L C180 Eleg Nautic 11T £20,995
94M C180 Eleg Azurite 9T £22,250
94M E220 Almandine 8T £24,995
92K 300E Almandine 36T £20,995
92K 300E Anthracite 30T £21,495
89G 300SE Smoke Silver 66T £14,995
93L 300E Brilliant Silver 10T £33,995
91J 300CE Blue Black 40T £27,995
92J 500SE H/Spec B/Black 45T £14,995
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92K 280TE Smoke Silver/Cream cloth, 8 hole alloy wheels £27,000
93K 320TE Blue Black/Grey leather, rear seat, cruise control, 8 hole alloy wheels £31,000
93L S320 Nautic Blue/Cream leather, electric drivers seat, cruise control £42,000
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Eddie Grundy's Italian job

Andrew Pierce talks cars to a leading character in *The Archers*

Eddie Grundy, roguish farmer in the BBC serial *The Archers*, has an impressive fan club. Earlier this year he met his greatest admirer, Norma Major, an honorary member of *The Archers'* fan club. It was the same when he met Britt Ekland and Anneka Rice. Trevor Harrison, who has played Grundy in the 44-year-old serial since 1979, says: "I went straight down The Bull to tell them about the latest leading lady in my life." Harrison would feel quite at home in Ambridge, home of *The Archers*. He lives in the Malvern Hills, a short drive from the cluster of Worcestershire villages on which the series is apparently based.

How did you learn to drive?

It was third time lucky. The night before I finally succeeded, even the elements turned against me. There was thick ice and snow. I skated through it, quite literally at times.

What was your first car?

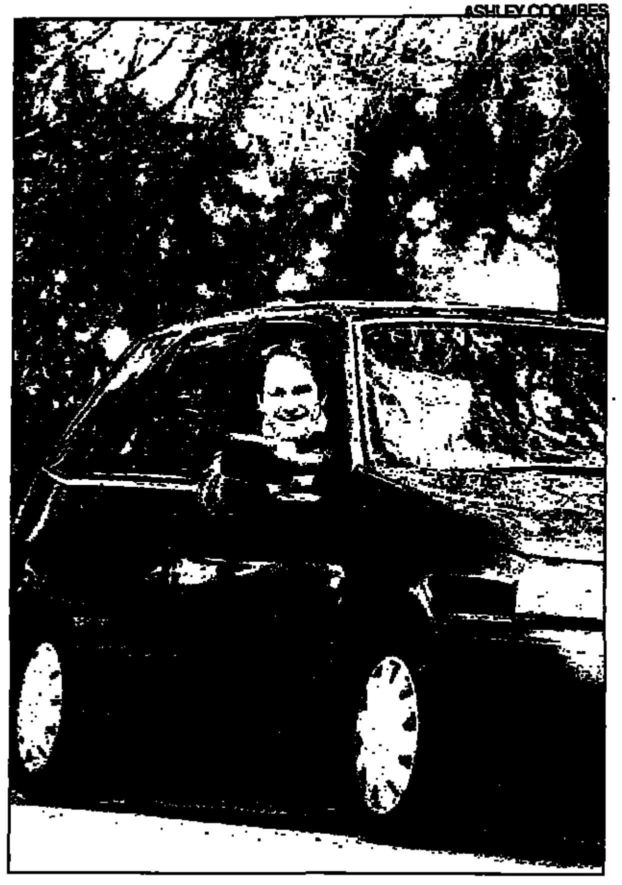
A blue Datsun Cherry. I bought it shortly after I joined *The Archers*, when I at last had a regular pay cheque. I had commuted to work in Birmingham on the train, not that there was any danger of anyone recognising me: radio gives total anonymity — unless I open my mouth. If I see a Datsun Cherry today, I get a little flutter. It was my Rolls-Royce.

What do you drive now and why?

A Fiat Tipo. It has been most therapeutic. For ages, I used to get arm ache when I drove because I live in the Malvern Hills, where there are lots of winding roads. The Tipo has power steering. I will never again be without it.

Do you like driving?

ASHLEY COOMBES



Therapeutic: Trevor Harrison, alias Eddie, in his Fiat Tipo

I love driving in Elgar countryside, where I am lucky enough to live. I used to live in London and drive from Fulham to Ongar in deepest Essex. I never thought anything about it but I am too much of a yokel now. I am apprehensive in cities. I prefer to go no further than the nearest railway station. I can catch up with my scripts on the train.

STEERING COLUMN

What is your most hated car?

Ones with dark laminated glass. They look like something out of *The Godfather*. I get an uncomfortable feeling that a gangster with dark glasses is leering at me.

What is your dream car?

Sad really, but my big fantasy in life is a metallic blue Bentley convertible. It really is sad. Even in my dreams, I am too frightened to drive it.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I tend to turn from mild-mannered into a deranged Basil Fawlty-style figure when I get behind the wheel. I try to be cool, calm, and collected, but I am consumed by rage when you give way to one car and 10 follow suit, and not one of them acknowledges it. It's like holding the door in the supermarket and suddenly dozens of shoppers trample you underfoot.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

See above. Or driving in a country lane at a comfortable speed when all of a sudden a car crawls out of a side road, forcing you to screech to a virtual halt, and then pootles along at 10mph and leaves the road at the next turning.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I recorded a scene of Eddie being kicked by a cow. On the day the programme was going out, I was returning home via a farm. A herd of cows was en route for milking, and next thing I was surrounded. They lumbered into the car, with me, the great rustic, cowering behind the wheel. They virtually flattened the car. As I finally made my escape, I turned the radio on just as Eddie's rear end was being kicked by a cow.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

No.

What do you listen to in the car?

Radio 4, periodically, local radio for the traffic. I often listen to Elgar as I drive through the Malvern Hills.

If you were Transport Secretary, what is the first thing you would do?

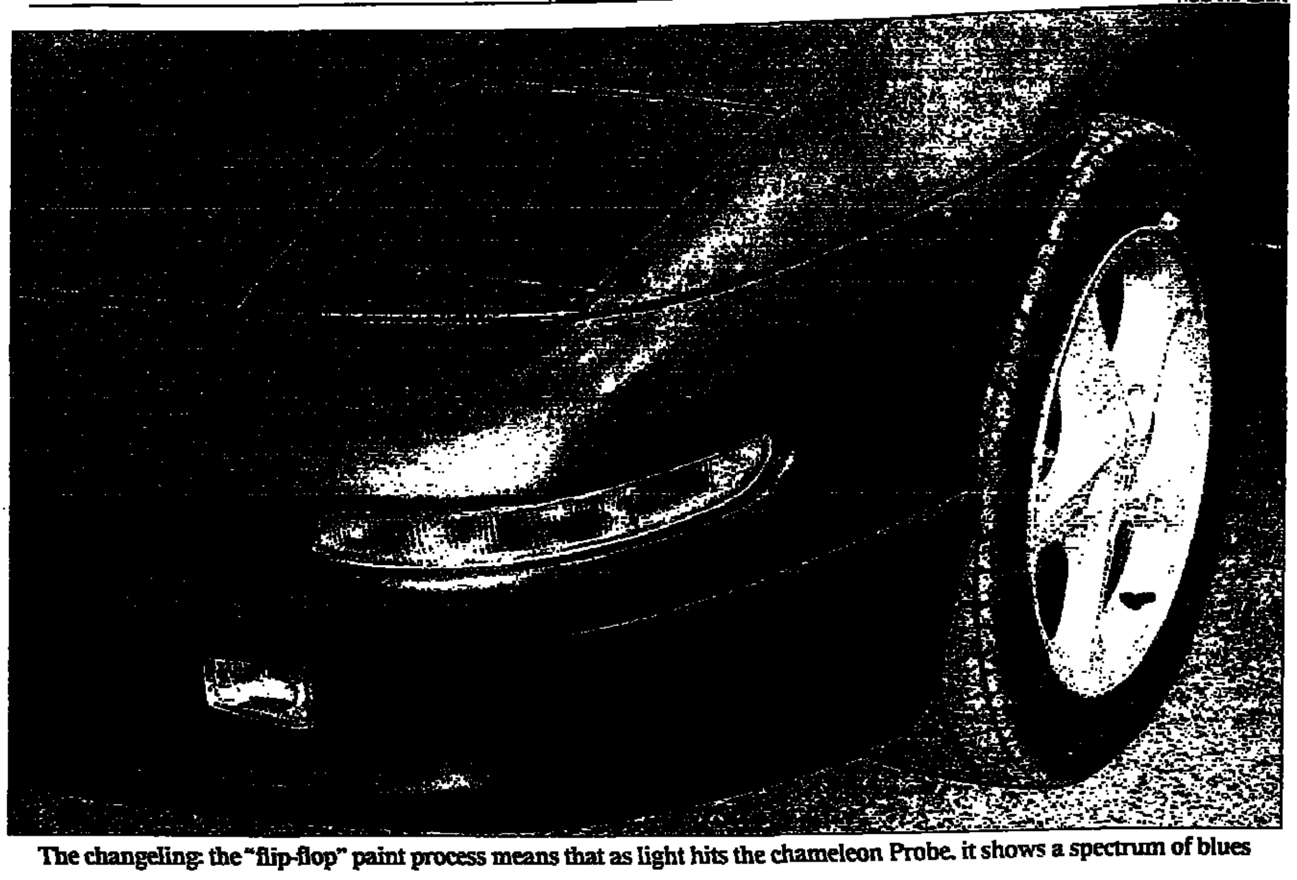
Abolish car tax and put it on petrol. I would also introduce voluntary driving refresher courses — and sign up for the first one.

What is your favourite car advert?

They leave me cold but there was a nice one for the Rover. The only reason I liked it was because of the Joe Cocker song.

Kevin Eason on a bright new idea that challenges our conservative tastes

ROLAND LEON



The changeling: the "flip-flop" paint process means that as light hits the chameleon Probe, it shows a spectrum of blues

Ford fields a car of many colours

The desk sergeant will look at the ceiling and then at his boots as the hapless witness tries to give the description.

"I mean, officer, the car was blue . . . well, not so much blue as purple, sort of purpley blue to blue-ish with a hint of purple. Actually, I'm not entirely sure what colour it was."

Witnesses of the future could need a colour chart as paint technology turns cars into metal chameleons, capable of showing one colour and then another, depending on the light or even the weather.

If there were any doubts that it could happen, Ford has launched its new Probe coupé, now available in a colour described as chameleon to bear witness to the changing times.

Chameleon is a two-tone process, known in the business as "flip-flop". To you and me, that means a bottom layer of paint containing metallic and light-reflecting mica chips, both of which reflect a different colour (the flip), while on top goes a clear coat layer, also containing mica chips (the flop), so that when light hits the Probe, the eye detects a series of blues, from the deepest purple to a summer sky shade.

The effect is disconcerting although attractive, with the rounded contours of the Probe offering the spectrum of blue as it moves through light and shade.

Whether the colour will make any difference to the popularity of the model remains to be seen. Colour is, at least, the one fashion item that has kept cars distinctive even as shapes have become more and more alike from the corporate jelly mould.

However, car buyers are predictable beasts. They like to buy their vehicles in the colours they recognise and even Naomi Campbell, decked to her delicate, high cheekbones in the most exciting new shades, has only a minor chance of pushing them off course. In spite of the fashion fluctuations of recent decades — the Swinging Sixties, Glam-Rock, the garish, ebullient Eighties — we are still conservative when it comes to showing our true colours in our cars.

Ford reports that its top-selling colours are still red, white and blue. Radiant Red is top, followed by Cayman Blue — the dark launch colour for the Mondeo — Java Blue, Diamond White and then Tourmaline Green, whatever that is.

The fashion pundits will tell you that what Naomi wears on the catwalk this year, you will be driving next year. Ford designers even go to fashion shows to check the latest trends.

And then the cars appear: BMW launching its M3 and Mercedes its C-class in bright yellow last year, and even Volvo, that last bastion of car conservatism, opting for an eye-busting yellow to show off its 850 range. Now Ford is first with chameleon, a no-extra-cost colour that will have passers-by squinting to figure out what shade they are looking at.

PPG, the world's biggest supplier of paint to the motor industry, reckons buyers can still be convinced and is touting pink as a colour for the future. However, some manufacturers have already had a long battle convincing buyers that new colours are worth the effort. When Rover revived its dark racing green, buyers threw up their hands in horror because green was supposed to be an unlucky colour. It took about five years for green to be accepted and join the bestseller lists.

In Japan, new colours are almost a lost cause. The Japanese are obsessed with the purity of white, so about seven cars in ten are that colour. Try chameleon on them.

The new Probe is priced between £17,165 and £20,395.

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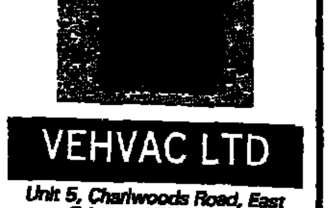

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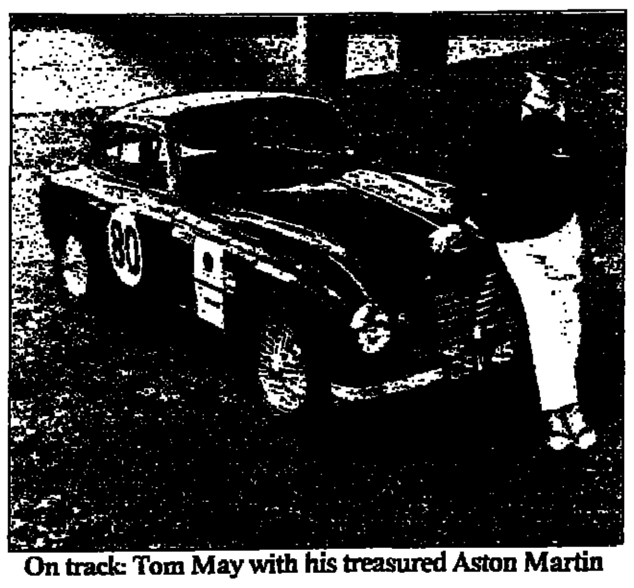


On track: Tom May with his treasured Aston Martin

Life in fast lane set to notch 80

Maurice Glover on a driver's quest to set a spirited birthday record

At precisely 9am next Friday, Tom May will rev up the engine of his immaculate old English sports car and set off around a steeply-banked test track in Bedfordshire.

Eighty minutes and 80 miles *later, he should have achieved* a distinctive new record.

While neither the distance travelled nor the average 82.5mph speed at which it is due to be covered are likely to raise eyebrows, the one-car race is nonetheless remarkable because it is being staged to mark the birthday of the driver.

May, a former major in the Royal Artillery before becoming a fighter pilot, will make his laps of honour around the Millbrook proving ground in Bedfordshire on the day he becomes an octogenarian, in his rare Aston Martin DB2.

His birthday coincides with the Diamond Jubilee of the Aston Martin Owners' Club, which he joined when he bought his two-door model ten years ago. Now the 43-year-old car is worth 25 times the new price of £4,000.

"In 1935, after three serious motorcycle accidents left me nursing lots of broken bones, my parents decided I'd be better off on four wheels. They spent £60 on a 1930 Aston International and I was hooked. So were the girls who saw it; they flocked from all directions. It was a wonderful car," *he recalls with a grin, and remembers selling it for* £20 when he enlisted.

> 'The girls flocked to the car from all directions'

After the war, he raced a string of classic sports cars, including Bentleys, before joining Ecurie Ecosse team and becoming a founder of the Jaguar Drivers' Club. His DB was a present to himself when he retired from his career in the transport industry in 1985.

With 30bhp more under its bonnet than when new, Tom's 2.6-litre DB is good for 130mph. Among the improvements is a high-ratio rear axle which allows it to pull 25mph per 1,000 revs in top gear.

"I know that most people of my age tend to sit down and think of the past. For me, retirement is not driving into a cul-de-sac and watching life through the rear-view mirror," he says. "If I'm lucky enough to be around at 90, I hope I can think of another way to celebrate."

The compact Swatch/Mercedes eco car is breaking new ground, **Vaughan Freeman** reports

Time to check out the Smart car

From the people who revolutionised telling the time comes the car that threatens to do for conventional cars what the internal combustion engine did for the horse and cart.

Two feet shorter than a Mini and powered by battery, petrol or diesel, the revolutionary Smart car was unveiled this week by watchmakers Swatch and its partner Mercedes-Benz.

Carmakers have been wrestling for years with the problems of making an environmentally-friendly car small enough for today's congested cities; one that that is still stylish and more fun to drive than a battery-powered milk float.

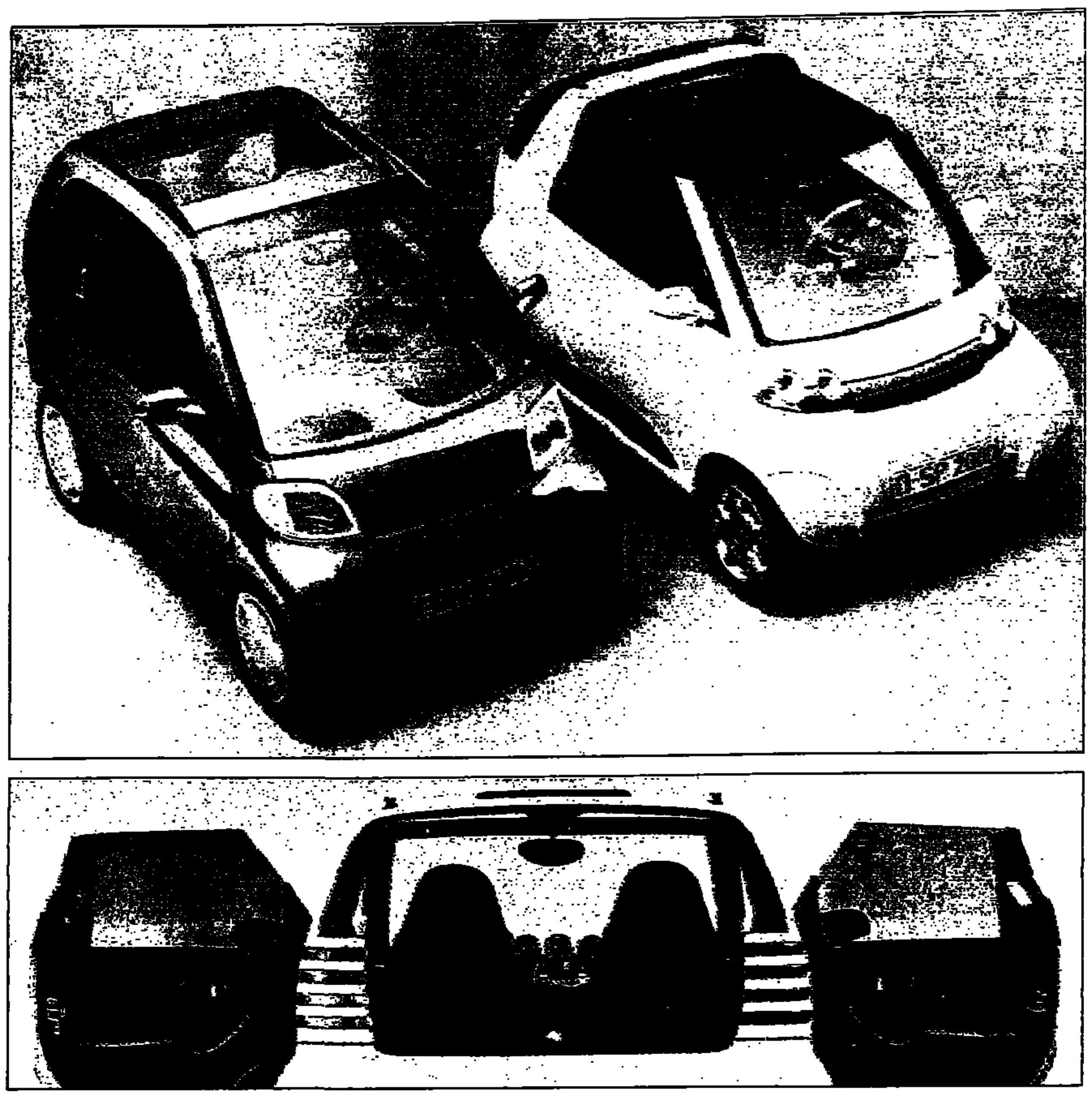
Research reveals that the average motorist spends 90 per cent of the time on the road at a standstill stuck in traffic, averages only 13mph at best, and spends an hour a day motionless or looking for a parking slot. On top of that, four-seat saloons are driven with one, or at most two, occupants for most of the time.

SMH, Swiss makers of the Swatch watch and specialists in micro-electronics, and Mercedes, believe they have the answer with their two-seat Smart car, a stylish-looking buggy and in-town shopping trolley for the young at heart. The vehicle will come in hard-top and convertible guise, yet is capable of long-distance driving at motorway speeds up to 80mph.

The flagship model will be the fume-free, battery-powered version, with a range of 75 to 120 miles and fully rechargeable in under two hours.

There will also be a three-cylinder Eco Turbo petrol-engined version capable of 70 miles to the gallon, the Eco Turbo Diesel capable of 94mpg, and the Eco Hybrid, a car using diesel power for motorway range while also charging an electric motor for pollution-free town driving.

Swatch and Mercedes, which are investing £500 million to set up the Micro Compact Car Company, say the first cars will go on sale throughout mainland Europe by mid-1998, priced at £7,000 to £9,000, with sales shortly afterwards in the UK.



The Smart car: revolutionary in both design and its sales pitch, with plenty of room for two

The partners believe they will be selling 200,000 a year within three years of launch and already have plans for a factory in America to supply the North American market.

The way the car is sold also promises to be revolutionary. There will be Smart car dealerships, some linked to existing Mercedes showrooms but with a separate and recognisable corporate identity. But potential buyers will be able to use information booths, with video and computer-screen technology, at airports, railway stations and shopping centres, to obtain all the information they need on the car. They can then place orders at sales outlets in main shopping centres with the vehicle delivered to their home or collected from the main dealer.

One attractive promise for drivers is the Smart car pledge that all servicing and mechanical repairs needed, except for repairs to the metal bodywork, will be completed within two hours.

Who will buy it? Hans Jung Schar, MCC's marketing vice-president, says: "The primary target groups, we believe, will be singles up to 30 years of age, so-called Dinkys or dual-income no-kids couples, and youthful older men and women — the young at heart.

"We are targetting consumers who would be attracted by the Swatch trademark and by Mercedes-Benz."

Although the Smart car is less than eight feet long, Johann Tomforde, technology and design director, says Mercedes technology will make it super-safe. "This vehicle will be the safest in the super-compact class."

Nor will there be a shortage of interior space since the engines will be located under the floor, while, since there are only two seats the occupants have the same space as four people in a four-seater saloon.

The only confusion could be among consumers who pay for their Smart car with a smart card. Originally the Swatchmobile, the car has been rechristened Smart from S (Swatch) M (Mercedes-Benz) and ART, as in state-of-the-art.

Deluge disrupts sprint for the finish

In the last of his special reports on the 25th anniversary London to Mexico Rally, Roy Dixon, co-driving Tony Fall in a Volvo 142S, reports from Managua on the sprint to the finish.

A WEEK is a long time in rallying. It is now a sprint to the finish and individual battles are taking place throughout the field. Tony and I have just lost fifth place after being overtaken by the Hungarians, Janos Balazs and Andras Jojart, in their Porsche 911.

Behind us there's a scrap for every place, with only a few seconds separating many of the crews. The most fascinating battle is for last place. Roberto Hodari, in his Mustang, holds this position with 55 hours of penalties, and Peter and Sue Noble (Bentley) have 53 hours and carry out the most devious tactics to incur maximum penalties.

We all encountered a wash-away on the way out of Medellin in Colombia, where a river came from nowhere after torrential rain. Miles of lorries blocked both sides, but Hannu Mikkola, the rally leader, drove off into the mud only to find Richard Martin-Hirst, with his Ford Escort, deep in negotiations with the owner of a nearby house in an attempt to buy it so that he could drive through the middle of the property.

Luckily, Hannu cleared the way and we were all able to follow.

We are pushing hard to try to hold our position. Tony works on the car at every stop and has engineered the Volvo from a workhorse to a sprinter. We have abandoned all weight, but over a bad bump on the way to Managua we suffered a damaged sump guard and exhaust system. Can we finish?

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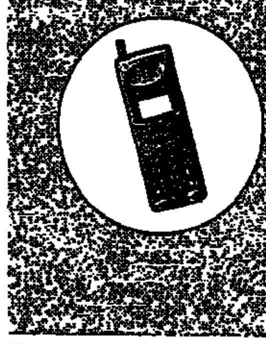

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 20 1995

[illegible] GGY, THE SOW WHO SHO[illegible] A STA[illegible]

By Paul Heiney

Take a lingering look at this pig. Start at her eyes and then follow her gently dished nose until you arrive at that moist and shiny snout. Now, observe that snout. Would you not say that if ever there was a snubbed snout, that is one?

Is this not the picture of a pig which has had a door shut, firmly and forcefully, in her face? How else would she get a turned-up snout like that? Not that she is in the least bit bothered because, as they say in all aristocratic families, breeding will out. She will rise above the snub and console herself with the knowledge that she is a direct descendant of the most famous Berkshire pig ever written about — the Empress of Blandings. As proof of her composure, when I travelled to Devon to warn her that a lucrative film career may be slipping from her grasp, she took it like a lady, without so much as a grunt.

This is Gert. At least, that is how she is known to her owner, Bob Matthews, of Tiverton. As we have hardly been introduced, it might be better if we were to call her by her full and proper pedigree name, Old Bell Stonebow the 13th. Alas, being 13th looks like being unlucky for her, but it could easily have been very different. This year it was Liz Hurley, next year it could have been Gert the Berkshire Pig up there in the spotlight. But it was my painful task to break the news to her that things were not going her way.

The story goes like this: a television producer, Verity Lambert, announced that she was to start work on a television production of P.G. Wodehouse's *Heavy Weather*, a Blandings story. While showbiz columnists, artists' agents and casting directors scrapped and argued over who should play Lord Emsworth and his deadly rival Sir Gregory Parsloe, scant attention was being given to the pig, the Empress of Blandings. Yet the pig, as Lord Emsworth would be the first to insist, far outshines any other characters in the Blandings sagas. To quote:

"The boudoir of the Empress was situated in a little meadow, dappled with buttercups and daisies, round two sides of which there flowed in a silver semicircle the stream which fed the lake. Lord Emsworth, as his custom was, had pottered off there directly after breakfast, and now, at half past twelve, he was still standing, in the company of pig-man Pirbright, draped bonelessly over the rail of the sty, his mild eyes beaming with the light of a holy devotion."

As I know from personal experience, that's how things are when you have pigs. For all I cared they could have cast Bob Monkhouse as Lord Emsworth; I wanted to know who was going to play the pig. But the television producers, having eyes set only on the stars, have seemingly failed to understand that the most important character in their drama stands at their feet, grunting. So, pig lovers, when this current production hits BBC television screens at the end of the year, prepare for a shock.

I rang Ms Lambert to ask if she had found a pig to play the Empress of Blandings. "Actually, I'm looking for two," she said. "One for Lord Emsworth, and a smaller one for Sir Gregory." So far, so good. She also knew she was looking for a *big* pig, far fatter than any pig kept by a modern commercial

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a trip to an exhibition? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

ROCK

David Sinclair

EAST 17: With two platinum albums to their credit, East 17 have outgrown their initial reputation as a downmarket, East End version of Take That. Indeed, it was East 17's million-selling hit, *Stay Another Day*, which held Oasis off the Christmas number one slot at the end of last year. Whatever critical flak the Walthamstow lads have taken in the past, nobody can gainsay their immense and continuing popularity. Fronted by Tony Mortimer, the four song-and-dance men bring traditional show-business values and a cheerful, energetic touch to 1990s pop.
Sheffield Arena ♿ (0114-256 5656), May 20; **SECC**, Glasgow ♿ (0141-248 9999), May 21; **Whitley Bay Ice Rink** ♿ (0191-252 6240), May 23 and June 27; **Cardiff International Arena** ♿ (01222 224488), May 24 and June 28; **G-Mex**, Manchester ♿ (0161-832 9000), May 26; **National Indoor Arena**, Birmingham ♿ (0121-200 2202), May 27; **Wembley Arena**, Middlesex ♿ (0181-900 1234), May 28 and July 1; **Kings Hall**, Belfast ♿ (01232 323744), May 30; **Point Depot**, Dublin ♿ (00 3531 836 3633), May 31; **BIC**, Bournemouth ♿ (01202 297297), June 30.

PORTISHEAD: The quiet yet ineluctable rise of Portishead has been one of the more heartening success stories of recent times. After a slow start, their extraordinary debut album, *Dummy*, has become a massive hit, opening a door for the Bristol-based "trip hop" genre to pass into the pop mainstream. Although as a live act singer Beth Gibbons and her keyboard/programming partner Gary Barrow are still an unknown quantity, the icy atmosphere of their records and videos is irresistible.
SFX, Dublin ♿ (00 3531 284 1747); May 20; **Usher Hall**, Edinburgh ♿ (0131-228 1155), May 22; **Mayfair**, Newcastle (0191-232 3109), May 23; **Tower Ballroom**, Blackpool ♿ (01253 22242), May 25; **Willesden Empire**, London NW10 ♿ (0181-459 2917), May 27; **Guildhall**, Southampton ♿ (01703 632601), May 28; **Trinity Centre**, Bristol (0117-955 4318), May 29.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

BATH FESTIVAL: Nod Knowles, director of the Festival's jazz programme, has come up with another thoughtfully structured series of concerts with the emphasis, as usual, on contemporary trends. This year's most promising events are collaborations across musical and national boundaries. On Tuesday, the West Country saxophone hero Andy Sheppard appears with the hyperactive virtuoso John Harle in a programme ranging from Chick Corea to Debussy. On Sunday week the colourful Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos links up with Scotland's Evelyn Glennie. Tonight belongs to the Rossini-recycler and Proms veteran Mike Westbrook, whose rowdy, good-natured orchestra will be celebrating *A Night Out in Utopia*. On Saturday the guitarist Martin Taylor pays tribute to the greatest jazz guitarist of them all in his recital, *The Spirit of Django*.
Various venues (Festival box office 01225 463362), until June 3.

Sheppard: West Country hero

JACQUI DANKWORTH/CAROL KIDD: An opportunity to savour two distinctive approaches to popular song. Jacqui Dankworth, daughter of Cleo Laine and John Dankworth, made her album debut earlier this year with *First Cry*, an atmospheric fusion of jazz, pop and Latin influences. Instead of the standard rhythm section, her ethereal voice was set against restrained percussion and the pastel colours of Anthony Kerr's vibraphone. Dankworth appears on the same bill as the bustling former Miles Davis saxophonist, Bob Berg. Carol Kidd carries the flag for the traditional jazz songbook. A magical interpreter of ballads with a quirky, self-mocking sense of humour, she has been slow to achieve the recognition she deserves. Other singers prefer verbal fireworks; Kidd is interested in story-telling at its purest.
Dankworth: **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 22 to Sat 27, 9.30pm.
Kidd: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 22 to June 3, 9.15pm and 11.15pm.

MICHAEL J. O'BRIEN

London City Ballet's Kim Miller and Roger Van Fleteren in Galina Samsova's production of *Giselle* at Sadler's Wells — see Dance

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

PELLEAS AND MELISANDE: Debussy's opera may officially be labelled "symbolist", but Richard Jones's unsparing new production for Opera North hits you squarely between the eyes — there is nothing remotely misty or elusive about it. Hugh Macdonald's excellent translation, sung with meticulous clarity, is a great aid to the evening's directness, and so is Paul Daniel's exemplary conducting: he and his orchestra let fly in the interludes but ensure that every word of the text is audible, and the pole-axing power of the piece is inescapable. Joan Rodgers's Mélisande is worth crossing oceans to catch, and there is sterling support from William Dazeley and Robert Hayward. Absolutely unmissable.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971/245 9351), Thur 25, 7.15pm. ♿

THE PEARL FISHERS: Much of the action is in Leeds this week, so a midweek break for those unfortunate enough not to live in the city that houses one of Britain's best opera companies has much to recommend (you could take in their saucy *Orpheus in the Underworld* as well). Bizet's treasure-chest of great tunes is conducted with enormous flair by Dietfried Bernet, and the chorus (banished off-stage in *Pelléas*) sings its heart out. Good soloists, too, in André Cognet, Maria D'Aragnes and Arthur Davies.
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971/245 9351), Tues 23, 7.15pm. ♿

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

THE SILVER TASSIE: Following Joe Dowling's sublime production of *The Plough and the Stars* comes O'Casey's even fiercer picture of the calamities wrought by war. There is less theatrical vigour to the injured soccer hero and his cronies, but with the adoration of the gun in the expressionist second act Lynne Parker's production becomes magnificently bitter.
Almeida, Almeida Street, London N1 (0171-359 4404). Evenings: 8pm; matinée: Sat, 4pm. ♿

HOBSON'S CHOICE: Harold Brighouse's affectionate comedy, set in 1880 Salford, is an evening to treasure in Frank Hauser's sensitive production. Graham Turner, Nichola McAuliffe and Leo McKern give rich and subtle performances as the worm who turns, the woman who turns him, and the father they have to overturn.
Festival Theatre, Chichester, Sussex (01243 781312). Evenings: Mon to Thur, 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm; matinées: Thur, Sat, 2.30pm. In repertoire with *Hadrian VII*.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

DANCE

John Percival

GISELLE: London City Ballet comes to Sadler's Wells for one week only with Galina Samsova's excellent production of this celebrated old romantic ballet, which has attracted enthusiastic reviews on tour. Fiona Chadwick and Roland Price (both former Royal Ballet stars) guest on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, but the company's own dancers are fine too, a team which flourishes through audience support in spite of Arts Council coolness.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), Tues 23 to Sat 27, 7.30pm; matinées: Wed 24 and Sat 27, 2.30pm. ♿

EUROPEAN VISITORS: Tradition and modernism both arrive from our Continental neighbours. The Royal Ballet of Flanders brings its new production of *La Fille mal gardée* to Northampton: Joseph Lazzini's choreography continues the mixture of comedy and romance popular worldwide since the ballet's creation in 1789. In London, the S.O.A.P. Dance Theatre from Frankfurt opens this year's *Turning World* festival with two programmes at The Place Theatre: a new piece called *Glass*, short stories of fools (Tues 23, Wed 24), and another recent production, *Object Constant* (Fri 26, Sat 27). They will be followed over the next four weeks by nine other companies in four London theatres.
Derngate, Northampton ♿ (01604 24811), Tues 23 to Sat 27, 7.30pm; matinées: Wed 24, Sat 27, 2.30pm; **The Place Theatre**, Dukes Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), 8pm.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

CLERKS (18): "I'm not even supposed to be here today!" the cash register clerk moans at the convenience store in New Jersey. Kevin Smith, the 23-year-old director, filmed this cheaper-than-cheap feature after hours at his own place of work, QuickStop Groceries. Technically rough, the grainy images never hide the inventive, rude wit, or the memorable portraits of a reckless generation.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **Metro** (0171-437 0757); **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636), **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030).

DON JUAN DEMARCO (15): Any film that teams current heart-throb Johnny Depp with eccentric veterans such as Marlon Brando and Faye Dunaway is intriguing. Jeremy Leven's quirky first feature about the rehabilitation of a suicidal incarnation of Don Juan does not disappoint. All three actors give of their best, while Leven's championship of romance and sympathy for society's outcasts give the film a warmth and charm.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636), **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527), **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031); **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705); **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233); **Screen/ Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343).

● *More films, page 6.*

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

IVO'S BACK: Long before "Nige" Kennedy was a twinkle in his manager's eye, classical music had an outrageous bad-boy. He was Ivo Pogorelich, the Yugoslav pianist who divided critical opinion fairly equally between those who thought that his ultra-flamboyant playing was the work of genius, and those who found it insufferably affected. He disappeared off the scene for a while, but now he is back with a Mussorgsky and Chopin programme. Judge for yourself.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Tues 23, 7.30pm. ♿

NEW FROM JAPAN: At the Brighton Festival, the first British concert by Japan's Shinsei Orchestra could be a revelation. Japanese "classical" musicians have never been short of technical prowess; now they are intent on proving that the old myth about them "lacking heart" is untrue. The Shinsei has certainly chosen a show-off programme, including the second suite of Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* and two modern Japanese pieces. Ryusuke Numajiri conducts.
The Dome, Brighton (01273 709709), Mon 22, 8pm. ♿

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

FETISHISM: An entertaining, alarming and sometimes repellent show at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, exploring the origins and current influence of the fetish in art. Portuguese traders coined the word in the 16th century to describe the charms and amulets they found on the West African coast. The word meant "charm" or "sorcery", and gradually it became associated in the West with heresy and witchcraft. But the African carvings and "charm gowns" assembled here were meant to protect and bring good luck. Only in the show's second section, devoted to Dada and Surrealism, does the mood grow macabre — Hans Bellmer's distorted dolls are genuinely shocking. The final section, exploring fetishism in contemporary art, is obsessed by bodily parts. Dorothy Cross turns a cow's udder into an Amazonian breast, and Jordan Baseman lets hair cascade down from the sleeves of a boy's shirt.
Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Church Street, Brighton (01273 603005), until July 2.
Jordan Baseman is also in *Real Time*, a mixed show at 35-40 Charlotte Road, London EC2 (0181-960 6784), until June 10 (Wed-Sun).

GOMBRICH ON SHADOWS: A superb small show at the National Gallery, where the eminent art historian E.H. Gombrich opens our eyes to the shadows cast in Western art. Surprisingly few painters included shadows during the Renaissance, for fear of spoiling the harmony of their compositions. But then Caravaggio arrived, acting like a dramatic lighting director who revels in extremes of brightness and gloom. His *Supper At Emmaus* is a feast of theatrical shadow play. Rembrandt inherited the same fascination. Gombrich even includes shadows cast by unseen people. The show is a quiet revelation, which makes us look at the rest of the National Gallery's collection in a new light.
National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-839 3321), until June 18. ♿

Campin's *Virgin and Child* at the Shadows exhibition

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

THE GREAT ICE-CREAM SHOW: During the 19th century the building by the Regents Canal which now houses the London Canal Museum was almost literally built on ice: Carlo Gatti, the quintessential Italian ice-cream vendor of Victorian London, was also the main importer of natural ice from Norway, and this he stored in two gigantic pits 45-feet deep beneath the existing ground floor. Hence the aptness of this touring show about the history of ice-cream, which explains how it used to be made and features a surreal selection of improbable scoops and containers.
London Canal Museum, 12-13 New Wharf Road, London N1 (0171-713 0836), Tues to Sun, 10am-4.30pm, throughout the summer.

THOMAS HENNELL: Hennell was working as a war artist, still on active service, when he vanished in Java in November 1945. Before the war he had a chequered career, including a period confined to a mental hospital with schizophrenia (afterwards the subject of an extraordinary autobiographical novel). But he had also built up an enviable reputation as an illustrator of rural scenes and implements, and was, according to Carel Weight, "The best English watercolourist since Turner". His war work, to which the show is mostly devoted, is just as fine, and marked perhaps with greater intensity.
Victoria Art Gallery, Pulteney Bridge, Bath (01225 477772), Mon to Fri, 10am-5.30pm; Saturday, 10am-5pm, until June 24. ♿

Raising the roof at the restored Westminster Abbey

Ruth Gledhill's spirits were lifted by a traditional rendition of choral matins

AT YOUR SERVICE

SINCE none has ceased from mental fight nor let the swords sleep in their hands till they have restored if not rebuilt Westminster Abbey, it seemed appropriate that we were seated next to the bust of William Blake (1757-1827) in the Abbey's Poets' Corner. This was choral matins, the daily office of morning prayer in the Anglican Church.

Next week an exhibition at St Margaret's church next door to the Abbey will open, celebrating 900 years of restorations of the Abbey, founded by Edward the Confessor in 1065. The Abbey, a Royal Peculiar, and as such under the direct jurisdiction of the Queen instead of a bishop or archbishop, is known worldwide for State occasions such as coronations, Royal weddings and funerals, and services such as the one earlier this week to mark the 50th anniversary of the charity Christian Aid, attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Every sovereign since 1066, apart from Edward V and Edward VIII, has been crowned here. But for the 2.5 million tourists who visit the Abbey each year, and the thousands of Londoners who pass through its doors weekly, the Abbey clergy are anxious to emphasise its ordinary qualities, such as the four daily services and five on Sundays which are open to the public and, apart from the above-average quality of the choir, could pass for services in any English parish church.

As is usual in churches with a great choral tradition, most of our service was sung by the choir, and we were able to sit back and listen, responding in silent acquiescence only until invited to sing a couple of hymns. Along with Dryden, Shakespeare, Handel, Byron, Chaucer, Longfellow and Oscar Wilde, we were in the south transept, beautifully lit by the large rose window. But the graphic reading from St Luke, about the poor man Lazarus begging at the rich man's gate, quickly destroyed grandiose fantasies engendered by such illustrious company.

Our preacher was the Abbey's newest canon, the Rev David Hutt, who eulogised eloquently on the importance of silence. "The silence which surrounds the still, small voice enables us to hear God without the need to grasp and define the nature of God," he said.

The £25 million restoration, begun in 1973, will finally be complete in October, when a big service of thanksgiving is planned. Unusually, there has been no public appeal. The funds have been raised behind the scenes by the Westminster Abbey Trust, chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. The one part of the Abbey still under the mason's chisel is the Henry VII or Lady Chapel, with its intricate vaulting, elaborate tombs and banners of the living Knights Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, whose chapel it is. Completed in the early 16th century, this chapel has been described by Donald Buttress, Surveyor to the Fabric, as "one of the wonders of late medieval architecture" containing "perhaps the highest achievement in structural masonry technique anywhere in Europe". This was the place that came to mind through the rendition of the anthem *Expectans Expectavi*: "This sanctuary of my soul unwitting I keep white and whole, unlatched and lit, if thou shouldst care to enter or to tarry there."

The exhibition "900 Years: The Restorations of Westminster Abbey" runs from May 24 to September 30, Mon to Fri and most Sats, 10am-4.45pm. Admission £2, concessions £1.

Westminster Abbey, Dean's Yard, London, SW1P 3PA. Tel: 0171-222 5152.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Canon David Hutt preaching from the pulpit of Westminster Abbey on the merits of silence

A one to five star ratings guide to the service

☐ DEAN: The Very Rev Michael Mayne.

☐ ARCHITECTURE: Architectural masterpiece influenced by 13th-century French Gothic design, with apse transepts, and choir consecrated in 1269. Regular additions since, with two 18th-century towers designed by Hawksmoor. ★★★★★

☐ SERMON: Canon David Hutt on the merits of silence: "Silence is not just lack of noise, it is not the nothingness of a vacuum or the suspension of life in that stillness where a thick fog descends." ★★★★

☐ MUSIC: *Jubilate* and *Te Deum* sung by the choir of 12 men and 22 boys, with Sorley's anthem *Expectans Expectavi*. The Abbey's choir school is unique in England, taking only choristers as pupils. ★★★★★

☐ LITURGY: Matins from the *1662 Book of Common Prayer*. Refreshing. ★★★★★

☐ AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee on sale in the cloisters. ★★

☐ SPIRITUAL HIGH: Equal to ascending the Abbey's roof-top, which visitors to the exhibition can do. ★★★★★

مكبرا من الاصل

COVER STORY

Continued from page 1

farmer. She wanted one that weighed 250kg. A truly fat pig: "The Empress ... could have passed in a dim light for a captive balloon, fully inflated and about to make its final trip. The modern craze for slimming had found no votary in her."

"I'm musing over the pig at the moment," Ms Lambert said. "I've never cast a pig before, but it hasn't got to do much. It's got to be seen in the front seat of a car at some stage, but that's it."

Then came the body blow. "The director's a bit disturbed about the pig being black. He doesn't think it will show up well. Difficult to light. We may use a pink one. I haven't made up my mind yet."

"But, but ..." I blurted. "Wodehouse says specifically that the Empress of Blandings was a Berkshire pig: black with four white socks, a white tip at the end of the nose and a white flash from snout to forehead. You can't use a pink pig, can you?"

But television is all-powerful and it doesn't care what purists think. It puts French kisses into Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. The fact of the matter is that Ms Lambert can cast any sort of pig she wants. On behalf of Gert, and in memory of the Empress, let us try to talk her out of it.

‘I was always told that the Berkshire was the only *real* pig’

— *Lord Runcie*

Bob Matthews has just the pig Ms Lambert is looking for. She lives in a magisterial situation atop a hill in Devon, overlooking the valley of the Exe: a fitting home for an empress. And she is the right size. "How many pounds is 250kg?" Mr Matthews asked. We reckoned more than 500. "Then Gert will fit the bill nicely," he declared, "because I was looking at her the other day and thinking to myself that there's 500lb of sausages in her, when the time comes."

Stay your hand, Mr Matthews; she may be worth far more when she's a star.

Mr Matthews lives and bathes Berkshire pigs. Known at the agricultural shows as Big Bad Bob, he not only keeps live pigs but manufactures, in his garage, teapots with pigs on them, jugs and sugar bowls with Berkshire pigs, fridge magnets and keyrings all inscribed with the majestic outline of his beloved breed. The registration number of his car is SOW 12.

"Do you think you could get her in the front seat of a car for the film?" I asked.

'It would have to be a hell of car, but I dare say she would go in. She loves being on show. When we bath and shampoo her, and rub her in oil on show days, she loves it."

"Wodehouse was quite specific," says Richard Lutwyche, the secretary of the Gloucester Old Spot society, who has a soft spot for the Blandings stories and all rare breeds of pig. "The Empress of Blandings was a *Berkshire* pig. They were hugely popular in the 1930s. If they must use a pink pig you must steer them away from a modern pink pig."

We agreed that pink pigs look like dogs, by comparison. "The Berkshire was a specialist pork pig. And don't forget that one of the principal things you wanted from a pig was lard." Fashions have changed and we are now urged to think of fat meat as some kind of poison. "It was the Government which finished off the Berkshire pig. It had to respond to the Danes, who were stealing the bacon market. The Berkshire wasn't such a good bacon pig. Pork was her thing."

We agreed that substituting a pink pig for a Berkshire would be a gross insult. "Well," Mr Lutwyche said, "it will be the final victory for the health police won't it? Please don't let them do it."

I wandered to the orchard in which Gert was truffling with her dignified snout. A boar, frothing at the mouth, possibly with anger on his beloved's behalf (much as Hugh Grant bridled when the greeter at the Oscars didn't recognise Ms Hurley) watched our every move. "She's a lovely pig," Mr Matthews said, "well up on her feet, nice belly line, 14 good teats." She is. She would be ideal.

I broke the news to him that it was possible that a pink pig would be used for a part that was rightly Gert's. He looked a little crestfallen and said: "That's very disappointing. I like things done properly, I do. It's the annoying thing with these television people, they get things three-quarters right and then they go and spoil it. I mean, if Wodehouse had said that Lord Emsworth drove a Rolls-Royce, they wouldn't show him in a bloody Morris, would they?"

And then, in a final, generous gesture, he said: "But they're welcome to Gert. I'm not bothered." He won't stand in her way.

The ball is now in Ms Lambert's court. Let her cast whichever pig she wishes. But, before she makes her crucial choice, let her consider one more voice raised in strong defence of the Berkshire pig. It is that of no less a distinguished Berkshire pig breeder than Lord Runcie, the former Archbishop of Canterbury.

I rang him to break the news of the grave sin which was about to be committed. "Terrible, terrible," he repeated. "Of course, I've fought this battle before, when a Wodehouse exhibition featured a painting of the Empress of Blandings, and it was of a *pink* pig! I wrote a letter which they then placed beside the picture." He then asked to be excused for a moment: "I'm just going to the vast porcine section of my library." He rapidly thumbed through a copy of *Blandings Castle* and declared: "Yes, there's no doubt about it. It's here. The Empress of Blandings was a black *Berkshire* sow. No doubt about that at all."

Lord Runcie, somewhat like Lord Emsworth, pays regular visits to his Berkshire pigs, which are looked after by mentally handicapped children, for whom they provide therapy. "I fell for Berkshire pigs during the war. I was in the army in France and I used to come home on leave. It was the time when people were encouraged to 'Keep a Pig for Victory'; to fatten and so on. I was always told that the Berkshire was the only *real* pig. I used to lean over the gate, looking at them ruminatively, and feel restored."

Thinking fondly of his pigs, and the insult it would be to them if a pink pig ("pink pigs look common to me") were to steal from his beloved breed the starring role in this television production, he said: "I suppose I could write a letter to the producer, threatening recourse to the public prints, or something. I'm all for taking part in a campaign. Please use the authority of my name, if you wish."

There is another way of ensuring that Gert gets the stardom that is her due. Wodehouse readers will remember that to secure a winning place for his sow, Sir Gregory Parsloe was forced to steal Lord Emsworth's Empress of Blandings to prevent her from going to the show. Not, of course, that the former Archbishop of Canterbury and I are threatening anything...

Farmer Bob Matthews with his Berkshire sow Old Bell Stonebow the 13th, better known as Gert. Will his porcine pride become a television star — the Empress of Blandings?

Cover photograph and
main picture on this page
by JACK DANIELS

Literary rashers of porcine culture

PITY THE poor pig. For centuries it has been dismissed as being dirty, greedy and unintelligent. "Swine", "pig", "sow" and "hog" are all used as derogatory terms whose meanings are rooted in the supposed negative qualities of pigs. The animal is constantly made to feel inferior because it can't fly and its ears are of no use for making silk purses.

If the pig fares badly in idiom, it fares little better in film. Even as recently as Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, two lunching hitmen hold the following anti-porcine conversation:

Jules: *I ain't Jewish, man, I just don't dig on swine.*

Vega: *Why not?*

Jules: *They're filthy animals. I don't eat filthy animals.*

Vega: *Sausages taste good. Pork chops taste good.*

Jules: *... I don't wanna eat nothin' that ain't got enough sense to disregard his own faeces.*

Jules goes on to say that if he was to eat pork, then the pig would have to be "the Cary Grant of pigs".

There are few leading film roles for pigs, although Betty, a 250lb Sussex Ridgeback, out-starred Maggie Smith and Michael Palin in *A Private Function*. Set in 1947, the film concerns a middle-class couple's attempt to kidnap the pig meant for the town's celebration of Princess Elizabeth's marriage. The pig is seen as a desirable asset in Britain under rationing, although the underlying antiporcism in Alan Bennett's script becomes evident when we see that the sow is everything that Tarantino's hitman is wary of: for this hostage, every room is the lavatory.

(Perhaps Verity Lambert, when casting for a pig to play the Empress of Blandings on television, should be mindful of Palin's experience of sharing a car with his co-star. Betty tried to jump out, nearly castrating the former Python in the process, and dropping most of what she had eaten into his lap. Palin later remarked that it was like trying to get a Sumo wrestler out of an igloo.)

Another badly behaved example appears in the film *The Hour of the Pig*, in which a Gypsy girl's pig is put on trial for the murder of a young boy in medieval France. Such trials were common: readers of Julian Barnes's *History of the World in 10½ Chapters* will recall the prosecution of woodworm that were infesting a church. Pigs would never have suffered such rough justice in ancient Crete: the animal was regarded as sacred because Jupiter was suckled by a sow. In North Celebes, north of Borneo, drinking a pig's blood was said to give inspiration. A priest would immerse his head in the carcass of a newly slaughtered pig. After having a good sup, the priest would then be able to predict the success of next year's rice crop.

Pigs have a tough time in the Bible as well, especially in the New Testament, where St Matthew tells of Jesus driving the demons from a couple of madmen into the Gadarene swine. The pigs, which, according to St Mark, numbered 2,000, "ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters". (To add insult to death, the five marks on each of a pig's forelegs are supposed to be marks from the demons' claws when they entered the swine.)

Michael Palin in *A Private Function*

But swine don't always get butchered *à la* William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*. In Shelley's *Oedipus Tyrannus*, the abused pigs rise up and liberate themselves from the evil tyrant, Swellfoot. And, of course, there is George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, in which the despotic pigs lead the farmyard animals in creating a state in which the pigs are a lot more equal than the others. Indeed, by the end of the book the pigs are indistinguishable from the humans — "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which."

Winnie the Pooh's Piglet never finds himself as bacon across a chicken's back, and The Three Little Pigs live happily ever after in the house made from brick. *The Muppets*' Miss Piggy was never going to get slaughtered, unless she was the victim of domestic violence from Kermit, and Charlotte the spider, in E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*, does a fine job in saving Wilbur from becoming a string of sausages.

The notion that the pig is nothing more than a foodstuff on trotters is a recurrent theme. Children are taught frighteningly early that their big toes are little more than market-bound swine, and every child knows what Tom the piper's son did to a pig. Even in *Asterix*, the wild boar that gambol in the nearby forest are nothing more than fodder for the indomitable Gauls. This is especially so for Obelix, a real boar bore, who dislikes Uderzo and Goscinny's Ancient Britains adding mint sauce to his favourite dish in *Asterix in Britain* — "the poor things," he simpers.

IN MEDIEVAL carvings and illustrations, pigs were often shown as fattening up before the late-autumn slaughter. The subject of H.K. Gruber's opera *Gloria* is a sow who is ignorant of her fate, believing the farmer to be her handsome prince. During the course of the opera, the sausages try to warn her with the line, "We're martyrs for starters, just poor little chipolatas". However, Gloria is saved by the dashing hog, Rodrigo, and the couple settle down to produce three piglets.

Even *The Archers* has touched upon the theme of porcicide, when Phil had to send Freda to the abattoir.

Pigs seldom appear in paintings, apart from in the livestock-proud naive school, though the publication of *The Symbolic Pig* in 1961 showed that both Rubens and Rembrandt had portrayed them. Presumably, pigs were thought to be too lowly for most grand masters.

GUY WALTERS

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Saturday 20 May 7.30 pm	TRANSYLVAN STRING QUARTET The New Europe Türk: Meditation on K499 (Mozart Quartet in D) Haydn: Quartet in D Op.64 No.5 *The Lark*; Mozart: Quartet in C K465 *Dissonance*; Beethoven: Quartet in B flat Op.18 No. 6 £12, £10, £8, £6 Sponsored by Central Europe Trust
Sunday 21 May 11.30 am NB: starting time	GOLUB/KAPLAN/CARR TRIO Coffee Concert David Golub piano, Mark Kaplan violin, Colin Carr cello Saint-Saëns: Piano Trio No.1 in F Op.18 Mendelssohn: Trio No.2 in C minor Op.66 £7 including programme and coffee/sherry/juice Wigmore Hall
Sunday 21 May 7.00 pm NB: starting time	BERNARD RINGEISSEN piano Albéniz: Sonatina; Zorcico; Scherzo diabolico; Chopin: Barcarolle in F sharp Op. 60; 3 Mazurkas; Sonata in B minor Op. 58 Presented by the Chopin & Albéniz Societies £12, £10, £8, £6 Sponsored by The Prospero Foundation
Monday 22 May 7.30 pm	MATEJA MARINKOVIC violin, LINN HENDRY piano Schnittke: Quasi-ulatoriosondo; Beethoven: Sonata in C minor Op.30 No. 2; Schumann: Sonata in A minor Op. 105; Paganini: Nel cor più non mi sento; Chausson: Poème; Sarasate: Carmen Fantasy £12, £10, £8, £6 Management: Margaret McMillan
Tuesday 23 May 7.30 pm	FRANÇOIS LE ROUX baritone Song Recital Series ROGER VIGNOLES piano Ravel: Histoires naturelles; Songs by Debussy, Duparc, Lalo, Massenet, Hahn and Poulenc £14, £12, £9, £6 Wigmore Hall
Wednesday 24 May 6.00 pm NB: starting time	ENSEMBLE SONNERIE Rush-Hour Concert Monica Huggett violin; Wilbert Hazelzet flute Telemann: Suite in D; Vivaldi: Violin Concerto in E *L'Amoroso* Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D BWV1050 All seats £7 Wigmore Hall BBC Radio 3
Wednesday 24 May 8.00 pm NB: starting time	HAGEN QUARTET Master Concert Paul Gulda piano, Boris Pergamenschikow cello Schumann: Piano Quintet in E flat Op.44 Schubert: String Quintet in C D956 £16, £14, £10, £8 Last of four concerts Wigmore Hall
Thursday 25 May 7.30 pm	BRITTEN QUARTET, Michael Collins clarinet, Douglas Boyd oboe THE COMPOSER'S GUILD 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS Berkeley: Oboe Quartet; Bliss: Clarinet Quintet; Vaughan Williams: String Quartet No.2; Arnold: String Quartet No. 1 £14, £12, £9, £6 British Library Stefan Zweig Series Anglo-European Arts
Friday 26 May 7.30 pm	EWA POBLOCKA piano Bach: Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D minor BWV903; Partita No.6 in E minor BWV830; Berg: Sonata Op.1; Panufnik: Pentasonata Schumann: Arabesque Op. 15; Sonata in G minor Op. 22 £11, £9, £7, £5 Management: Lies Peacock

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Sun 21 May 7.30	GRAND OPERA GALA National Symphony Orchestra, Excerpts: Don Giovanni, Rigoletto, La Traviata, Il Trovatore, Faust, Tosca, Gianni Schicchi, Turandot, Prince Igor, Barber of Seville, The Pearlfishers, Cavalleria Rusticana. Victor Hochhauser
Mon 22 May 7.30	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Libor Pesek (cond) Debussy Images; Suk A Summer's Tale symphonic poem, Op.29 £10 (unreserved) BBC Radio 3 FM
Tue 23 May 7.30	IVO POGORELICH (pno) Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition; Chopin Prelude in C sharp minor; Scherzi No.1 in B minor, Op.20; No.2 in B flat minor, Op.31; No.3 in C sharp minor, Op.39; No.4 in major, Op.54. £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 Columbia Artists Mgt Ltd
Wed 24 May 7.30	PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA Leonard Slatkin (cond) Evelyn Glennie (perc) Tippett Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli; MacMillan Veni, veni, Emmanuel; Walton Sym No.1. RFH 6pm: John Amis talk. Spons: BUPA. £28, £22, £17, £10, £5 *Phil Ltd
Thu 25 May 7.30	MOZART & HIS CONTEMPORARIES London Mozart Players, M Bamert, B Douglas. Mozart Sym No.34; German Dances, K.600; Beethoven Piano Conc No.2, Op.19; Witt Jena Sym. Spons: Generale des Eaux Group. £18, £16, £14, £12, £8, £5
Fri 26 May 7.30	BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Libor Pesek (cond) Raphael Oleg (violin) Szymanowski Violin Concerto No.1; Novak Eternal Longing; Strauss Also sprach Zarathustra. £10 (unreserved) BBC Radio 3 FM

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Sat 20 May 7.15	DELIUS: KOANGA Chelsea Opera Group Orchestra & Chorus, David Lloyd-Jones. Concert performance, in English. £15, £12.50, £7.50 *COG
Sun 21 May 7.00	FINCHLEY CHILDREN – TRINITY JUNIOR. Chopin Piano Conc No.1; R.R. Bennett Suite for Small Orch; Shostakovich Ov on Russian & Kurdish Folk Themes; Howard Blake The Bells (Lon Prem); Brian Chapple Songs of Innocence £8, £5.50 *TCM/FCMG
Mon 22 May 7.45	THE TRADITIONAL MUSIC & OPERA FROM VIETNAM Music from North, Central & South Vietnam & 3 styles of Vietnamese opera: Cheo (popular), Tuong (traditional) & Cai Luong (renovated). Sponsor: Rothmans Inc. £15, £12.50, £8 (ONLY) JRM Mgt/ESRV
Wed 24 May 7.45	ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Gil Shaham (violin) The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra return to England for the first time in three years, performing with the acclaimed young American violinist Gil Shaham. £18, £15, £12, £8, £6 *SBC

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Tue 23 May 7.30pm	ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Leopold Hager cond. Leonidas Kavakos violin. Mozart Symphony No.31 in D, K297, *Paris* Prokofiev Violin Concerto No.2 in G minor Mendelssohn Symphony No.3, *Scottish* *ECOMS* £8 £10 £15 £19 *Sponsored by Sun Alliance Group*
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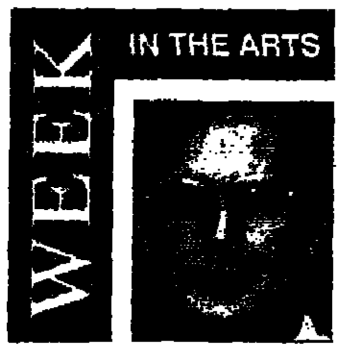
Not the latest gossip from Cannes

WEEK IN THE ARTS



RICHARD MORRISON

And why not, you ask? Why is Morrison not striding out with his notebook and sharpened pencil on the Croissant, or Croisette, or whatever the damn road is called? Why can't you read in this column of what Ovitz said to Spielberg over the croissants (croisettes? . . . doesn't *anybody* have a French dictionary in this office?), as they power-breakfasted before touching base with Tarantino for power-milkshakes and then joining Costner for a few power-nibbles-on-toast?

When will you get the inside-track on those vital mega-buck mega-deals between the megalomaniacs who control the movies and the future of civilisation as we know it? And most importantly, where are the pictures of 19-year-old actresses with large bosoms? Is no tradition sacred in modern journalism?

Well, the answer is simple — as you might expect, coming from me. Let other scribes bring you boring news of films, film stars and film tycoons. I bring you instead . . . film posters.

Yes, I have spent the last 15 minutes making an in-depth study of the posters advertising some of the 800 films being flogged at Cannes this week. And I can tell you this: as a source of Delphic wisdom, they leave Eric Cantona standing. Plus, they are in English. Or at least American.

Ponder, for instance, this sagacious homily, emblazoned upon the poster for the film *Fatal Passion*: "When desire becomes obsession, no man is safe". A useful maxim indeed for those of us accustomed to stirring the most primitive urges in our fellow human beings! Or this practical tip for people contemplating a round-the world canoe trip without a map: "Only the strongest can survive when they are lost at sea".

There is even a slogan suggesting a whole training schedule for budding body-builders: "You can only push a woman so far". And another that offers a new slant on the wonderful world of ball-games: "A lonely boy . . . a remarkable dog . . . basketball will never be the same". That is for a film called *Air Bud*, if you want to book your tickets now — and I understand that the dog is available for after-dinner speeches and consultancies with merchant banks.

My favourite, though, is the film poster giving career guidance to those in the service industries: "When you clean 44 pools a day, every backyard has a story".

I wonder who writes these gems. Does Hollywood raid university philosophy departments for the keen minds that can produce such telling statements about the human condition as "There's a time to fight and a time to run" (*Breakaway*), or the still more profound "When justice fails, vengeance is not enough" (*Beyond Vengeance*)? Do top New York psychiatrists supply such important medical revelations as "Somewhere between sanity and madness, there is rage"?

I would dearly like to know. But as the poster for *Scream Slowly in Hell* so rightly says: "The curious die first when evil stalks the badlands of blood-lust". Thank you, bishop.

I wish that a little of Hollywood's marketing skills could be transferred to those who write important reports about British education. Then, perhaps, such numbing titles as *Guaranteeing an Entitlement to the Arts in Schools* would be strangled at birth. If Rick Rogers, author of the Royal Society of Arts report published this week, had instead called his volume *SOS! We're raising a nation of philistines*, he would possibly have got the attention that his research deserves.

For his report confirms that the arts are slowly being squeezed out of children's lives. If this were being done deliberately it would be a scandal, but at least we could put the guilty people up against a wall and assault them with continuous renditions of Norway's Eurovision Song Contest winner, until they broke down and promised to put things right.

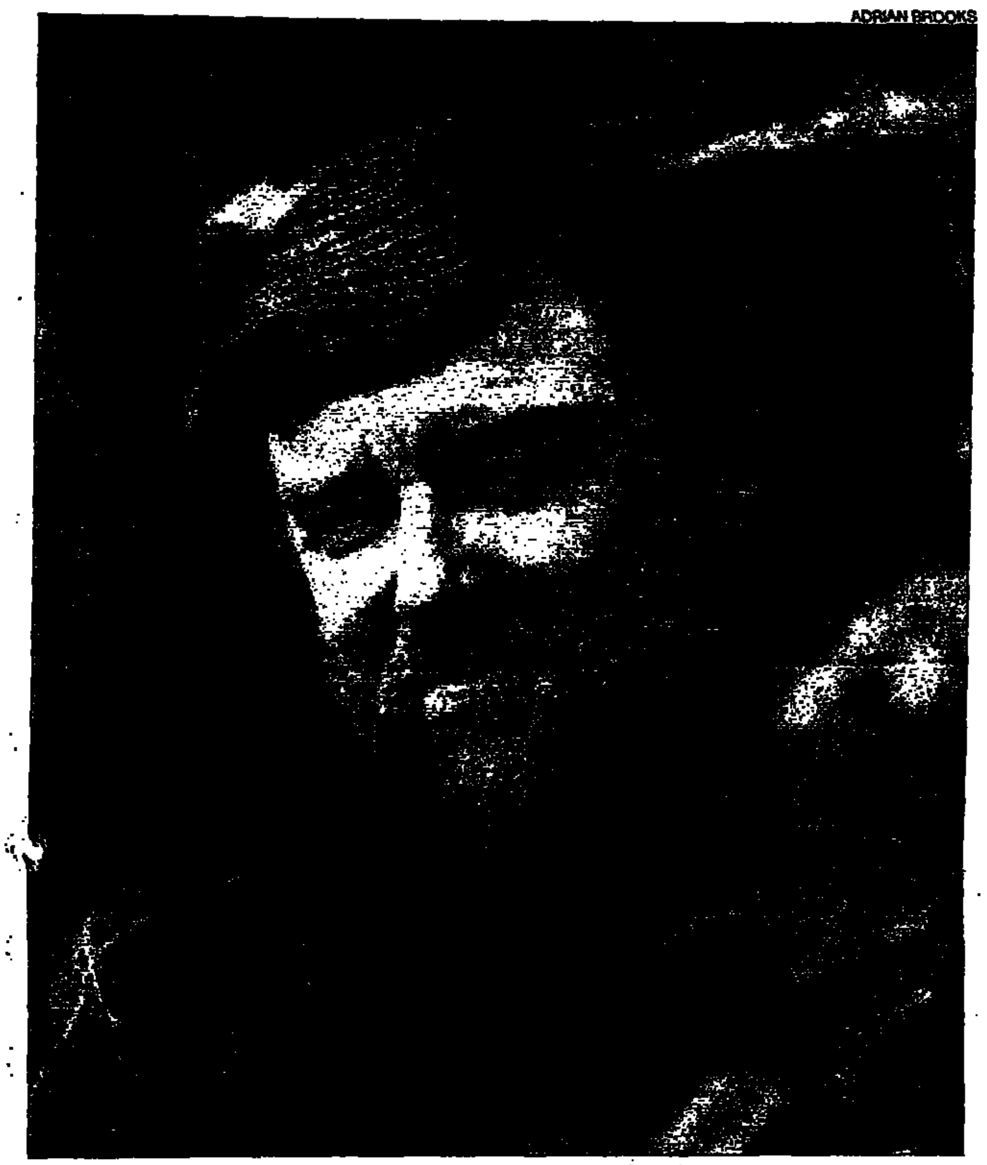
But the pathetic fact is that it is happening by accident. For instance, it was not the Government's intention, when setting themselves against "progressive" teaching fads, that the pendulum should swing so far the other way that now head teachers are scared of deviating an inch from dogged pursuit of the Three Rs and that new holy gospel, "technology".

Nor, presumably, was it the Government's intention, when establishing Local Management of Schools, that shared assets such as county music services and visiting-artists schemes, as well as theatre and concert visits, should be cut so brutally. Whether state-school children enjoy these is now alarmingly dependent on where they happen to live.

To me it seems clear that at least half the vast amount of money coming into the arts from the National Lottery should be going towards arts education in the broadest sense. But as things stand, barely a penny can be used for that purpose.

Nor is there a clamour from "arts people" that it should be. Selfish and shortsighted, they demand money to boost their present prestige rather than see it spent on fostering the paying audience of tomorrow. Meanwhile, we starve our children of beauty and truth, and then complain that we have a yob culture.

Time for a breath of fresh aria



ADRIAN BROOKS

Pastures new: Andrew Davis has decided to step out of character and take on Rossini

OPERA: John Higgins talks to Glyndebourne's music director about the season's bold new productions

Glyndebourne is moving into little known areas this summer. Neither of the new productions, Rossini's *Ermione* and Janáček's *The Makropoulos Case*, will feature on many lists of Your Hundred Favourite Operas. Both are firsts for Glyndebourne and both will be conducted by the house's music director since 1988, Andrew Davis.

The Janáček fits neatly alongside *Katya Kabanova* and *Jenufa*, two of Davis's biggest successes during his Sussex tenure. But *Ermione* is another matter. It opens the season on Monday and has turned out, with the revival of *The Queen of Spades*, to be top choice at the box-office. *Ermione* remained virtually forgotten until Claudio Scimone revived it in Padua in 1986 in concert performance; there followed a glossily cast production at the Pesaro Festival the next year with Caballé, Horne and Chris Merritt.

Rossini is not a composer normally associated with Davis, an expert on the 20th century in general and Richard Strauss in particular. "We made an 'executive decision' to return to Rossini, who is a very suitable composer for this house and was part of the great Glyndebourne tradition under Vittorio Gui," Davis says. "The question was whether it should be comic Rossini or serious Rossini. The feeling was that much comic Rossini had become familiar since the Gui days and that we should look at the sterner stuff. We settled on *Ermione*."

The opera was written for Naples in 1819 and drawn from Racine's first play, *Andromaque*. Graham Vick's neo-Classical production is set in a 19th-century Italian theatre, in shape a little like Glyndebourne's own, dominated by three tall columns. The prime vocal requirements are a dramatic coloratura for the title role (Anna Catarina Antonacci), a powerful mezzo for Andromaca (Diana Montague) and four tenors, who will be led by Rossini expert Bruce Ford and a young Mexican, Jorge Lopez-Yanez.

So what attracts Davis to the piece? "In many ways it sits between the 18th and 19th centuries, the Classical and the Romantic. The opening is very Gluckian and there is the marvellous overture with the chorus joining in. But then, in the Act I finale, come harmonic tricks of which Verdi would have been proud. Both Graham and I see *Ermione* as having a Classical framework bursting at the seams. There is no sense of prettiness about it and the emotional states are always clearly defined."

Definition might be rather more difficult when *The Makropoulos Case*, another work Davis is conducting for the first time, enters the repertory at the end of next month. Even by Janáček standards, it is a highly compressed work and a complex one too, concerning a piece of litigation that has gone on for 321 years, 16 years more than the age of the heroine, Emilia Marty, sung by Anja Silja. The production team of Nikolaus Lehnoff and Tobias Hoheisel is the same as for the earlier two Janáčeks.

"It's a thorny piece and much harder for the orchestra than either *Katya* or *Jenufa*," Davis says. "The exposition of the first act is complex, and thank goodness we have surtitles."

Makropoulos will be heard too at the Proms, which Davis will also open using his other baton as chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He took up this post a year after accepting the Glyndebourne job. A careful combination of the fashionable and the unfashionable? Davis guffaws. "I don't know about the BBCSO being unfashionable." Well, it was then, although it has since become the envy of the London orchestras, especially after the events of last week, with its built-in subsidy and low seat-prices.

"If you're saying that we have an unfair advantage, I suppose that is true. We have rehearsal time, the chance to put on unfamiliar pieces, and we're quite shameless about our pricing policy. We want to bring in the young and we do."

At the Proms in July, Davis, a lover of big choral works, will begin with Mahler's Eighth Symphony. Glyndebourne this summer offers little to satisfy that side of him: the chorus in *Ermione* is virtually a "backing group" and it is non-existent in *Makropoulos*. So perhaps Mahler will provide the choral fix? "Yes, I think it will. Do you know I conducted its Canadian premiere many years ago? I've only done it once since."

● *Glyndebourne box office 01273 813813*

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

PETER ROSE

Profession: Opera singer. A bass of resonance and precision, already singing leading roles internationally.

Age: 33

Currently: Rose, a broad, towering fellow yet gently-spoken and with a bubbling sense of humour, is playing Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Coliseum. Next year he will make his Met debut in that role. Before this, he can be seen at Covent Garden in *Mathis der Mahler* and *Aida*. His diary is now being booked up years in advance.

Filling out his career: He made his professional debut at 25 with Glyndebourne, as the Commendatore. He was still a student at the National Opera Studio, soon to be appointed principal bass with the Welsh National Opera. *The Times* hailed him as "a statuesque, solemn, dignified though ultimately broken King Marke" in the WNO's *Tristan*. At 27 he was at the Royal Opera House with Joan Sutherland in *Anna Bolena*.

Opera-bound from birth? "It wasn't an especially musical family. My father was a policeman," says Rose, resembling a village bobby for a flash. "But his father may have been a violin-maker. Apparently, from very small, I used to perk up at anything classical on the radio. I always thought I'd be a music teacher. It wasn't until I went to the Guildhall, and saw Anna Steiger — now a great friend — singing from *La Bohème* that I knew this was what I wanted to do. That was the moment, at 21."

Buffo bass: "I love doing comedy," Rose says with a twinkle, "but diversity is the key. I've just been doing *L'Italiana in Algeri* in Amsterdam, and my next role is Osmin in *Seraglio*, in Turkey. Great comic roles. But I was singing epic Russian ones just before."

The state of the art: "Sometimes an international production is like a factory," says Rose, more amused than miffed. "Recently, in one *Aida*, I hadn't met Amneris until we were on stage: I was just looking for the woman with the jewels. But my main concern", he adds, "is that opera doesn't become a museum piece, but is relevant and available."

On himself: "I think I'm somebody ordinary who just has this gift. It's a job: one I enjoy enormously, but I have it in perspective. On the side, I am hugely interested in politics. Elections are heaven for me."

KATE BASSETT

ENTERTAINMENTS

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SCULPTURE: How the Royal Society of British Sculptors got back to business

Carving out a new reputation

Discreetly and with studied restraint, Sculpture Expo '95 is ushering in a little revolution in the small, concrete square in the shadow of that icon of Victorian monumentalism, Tower Bridge. For in the Tower Bridge Piazza, ten sculptures have gone on exhibition as the first public exercise of the Sculpture Company, the commercial subsidiary of the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

The society, 90 years old this year, was founded by a group of portrait sculptors and monumentalists such as George Frampton and William Frith, so eminent that they started by calling themselves simply "Royal British Sculptors" because they had all had royal commissions. It is still known as the RBS.

It went into decline in the 1940s with the advent of abstract sculpture, which the Fellows abhorred, and the fact that important contemporary sculptors such as Moore and Epstein did not join. Some Fellows were expelled for showing at the famous Battersea Park exhibition of sculpture in 1948, in which abstract work was given its first truly public airing. By 1990 the RBS had debts of £250,000, with its only asset the house in Brompton Road left to it by a member, Cecil Thomas.

To Nicola Godden, one of the exhibitors at Tower Bridge Piazza, it was "a bunch of elderly gentlemen sitting round giving each other commissions" with nothing to offer her. "It was an anachronism, with a membership which was verging on the amateur," said Glynn Williams, an RBS Fellow and Professor of Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, who is also exhibiting at the Expo.

But instead of sliding into oblivion, the society has been regenerated. Now in credit, it still invites membership from among the top sculptors on the basis of achievement. It has a membership of 230, precisely double that of 1990, whose average age is now 48 to 52 instead of 68 to 70. Godden joined last year.

The difference was the election in 1990 of its first woman president, Philomena Davidson Davis. She instituted a five-year plan of reconstruction on business lines, which this year saw the RBS declare a small credit balance. The creation of the Sculpture Company is the last phase.

Philomena Davidson Davis with Allen Jones's *Kneeling Figure*

Word soon got about that the RBS was under new management, and such august names as Royal Academicians James Butler, Ralph Brown and Michael Kenny have now been joined by some of the newer elite, such as Dhruva Mistry, Nicola Hicks and David Begbie. "There was no focal point, no information base, no pivot for sculptors or those who want to know about them," Davis said. "Not only did it have a low reputation with sculptors, it didn't attempt to meet their needs. We want to expand the market and offer management services."

Davis established four essential tasks for the new RBS: to look for commissions, to find exhibition opportunities, to provide an information base and to create a network for the artists.

The Sculpture Company was necessary to service the skills of members by mounting commercial exhibitions — forbidden under the RBS constitution — and to market not only their work but its own services. The RBS holds portfolios of the work of all its members, backed up by a slide library of thousands of sculptures.

Davis, who is also managing director of the company, is looking for national companies to sponsor events and wants to get British sculptors seen abroad. She is negotiating with Westminster Council for a properly lit sculpture trail between the Tate and National Galleries and has five other cities in mind. She is discussing a role for Heathrow's new Terminal 5 as a sculpture court, which would have the biggest passing trade in world. The next Sculpture Company exhibition opens next month near Heathrow in Osterley Park. She is also creating a student membership, with ten bursaries a year.

"We should be the authoritative voice of sculpture" she said. "In the enthusiasm for public art there is a danger that it can reduce the status of the artist, and we must retain the title of the sculptor.

"We have to campaign for recognition of sculptors in the media — it's all very well representing a new building in a picture by focusing on an interesting piece of art which is included in it, but more often than not the artist isn't credited. There has been a danger of the sculptor disappearing into a kind of medieval anonymity, like the great stone carvers of the Middle Ages who were rated merely as masons and unnamed."

SIMON TAIT

THE SUNDAY TIMES
America's greatest living writer is back from the brink of death, still smiling. A scourge of the modern age, he is full of pessimism. But he does have faith in the novel's ability to deal with the big issues: God, Truth and the Ideal Woman.
Bryan Appleyard meets Saul Bellow – tomorrow in The Sunday Times

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: Exhilaratin' song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **DEALER'S CHOICE**: Patrick Marber's fascinating poker drama, transferred from the National. Funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **DESIGN FOR LIVING**: Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's menage à trois comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

☐ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Juliet Stevenson and Simon Russell Beale in Webster's tragedy of incest, murder and the borderland of the mind. Philip Franks directs Greenwich Theatre's sell-out success.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE**: The joint is jumping again now that Clarke Peters's celebrated musical has bounced back into the West End.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens May 25

☐ **HARVEY**: Gordon Kaye and Rue (*Golden Girls*) McClanahan in revival of the 1949 Invisible Rabbit play, inevitably billed as a 24 carrot comedy. Clifford Williams directs.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **HOT MIKADO**: Jazz and jitterbug version of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, with Nanki-Poo a trombone player and Yum-Yum a doo-wah singer. Smash hit musical direct from Washington DC.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044) Now previewing, 8pm, opens May 24

☐ **JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND LIVING IN PARIS**: Last year's Canal Cafe Theatre revival moves from Off-Fringe to Fringe. A celebration of the life and songs of the Belgian cabaret performer, who isn't actually alive at the moment.

King's Head, 119 Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916) Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat and Sun, 3.30pm. Until June 4.

☐ **JEFFREY**: Christopher Villiers plays a New Yorker turned in to total abstinence. Tim Luscombe directs Paul Rudnick's Off-Broadway hit with a million camp quips.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until June 10. Ⓢ

☐ **THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE**: Miriam Margolyes plays the tweedy soap heroine in Frank Marcus's excellent comedy with a bite. Serena Evans and Josephine Tewson play her treacherous companion and boss.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111) Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; Thurs, 3pm; Sat, 5.30pm.

☐ **THE MAIDEN STONE**: Rona Munro's puzzler, where wild, 19th century road travellers and theatrical hopefuls meet up with Old Nick. A good cast somewhat lost in the storm.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE PLOUGH AND THE STARS**: O'Casey's tremendous tragi-comedy, in a justly acclaimed revival by Joe Dowling's all-Irish company.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5510) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm

☐ **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**: The Undead pose and prance again. Brad, Jane, Frank N Furter and Riff-Raff back in the West End for the umpteenth time. Robin Cousins and Nicholas Parsons in the company.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm. Ⓢ

◪ **SIMPATICO**: Powerful acting from Ciaran Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. Not vintage but insightful and gripping.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Until May 27.

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Michael Gambon and Lia Williams play social riser and social worker attacking one another's values in David Hare's gripping, up-to-the-minute drama. Richard Eyre directs.
National, (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Next on June 5 Ⓢ

◪ **TRUE LINES**: Beautifully acted devised play of tragi-comic tone: four young Irish travellers, uneasy on four continents and looking for guidelines.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **VICTOR AND THE LADIES**: Rudolph Walker plays a widower with 18 daughters in Jenny McLeod's sex-farce: a cheerfully preposterous and genially reactionary example of the genre.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

☐ **A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**: David Thacker's acclaimed production, with Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 2pm; Sat and Sun, 3pm.

◪ **THE WIVES' EXCUSE**: Thomas Southerne's 1691 comedy where an injured wife resists revenge against her oafish husband. Clive Wood and Lesley Manville excellent as a pair of lechers but the work is a minor rediscovery.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ◪ **Cats**: New London (0171-405 0072) . . ☐ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . . ☐ **In Praise of Love**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . ◪ **Indian Ink**: Aldwych (0171-416 6003) . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ☐ **Mama I Want to Sing**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ☐ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) . . ☐ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **DON JUAN DEMARCO** (15): See Critics' Choice, page 2.

ROB ROY (15): Lavish but fusty epic, with Liam Neeson as the Scottish folk hero and Tim Roth heading the baddies. Michael Caton-Jones directs, with Jessica Lange, John Hurt and Brian Cox.
Odeon Leicester Sq (01426-915 683)

◆ **STREET FIGHTER** (12): Mindless action thrills, from the popular video game, with Jean-Claude Van Damme and the late Raul Julia. Director, Steven E. de Souza.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

BEFORE SUNRISE (15): Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy walk and talk in Vienna. Risky, endearing film from *Slacker* director Richard Linklater.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

◆ **BOYS ON THE SIDE** (15): Unappealing women's picture with Whoopi Goldberg, Mary Louise Parker, Drew Barrymore. Herbert Ross directs.
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** (15): Diverting Woody Allen comedy set in New York's theatre world of the 1920s. With John Cusack, Chazz Palminteri, Dianne Wiest.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

CAPTIVES (15): Romance in a prison dentist's surgery. Modest British film that loses its way in melodrama, with Tim Roth and Julia Ormond.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527)

◆ **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** (15): Adventures of three Irish girls in the 1950s. Highly conventional, slightly charming, with Minnie Driver and Chris O'Donnell. Pat O'Connor directs, from Maeve Binchy's novel.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN (18): A decent transfer of Ariel Dorfman's play, but a cramped, impersonal film for Roman Polanski. With Sigourney Weaver, Ben Kingsley, Stuart Wilson.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's blockbuster.
Warner Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): Idiotic, good-natured comedy that outstays its welcome, with Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

EXOTICA (18): Inventive variations on the theme of voyeurism from quirky Canadian director Atom Egoyan. With Bruce Greenwood, Mia Kirshner.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **FRESH** (18): Brooklyn boy tries to outwit the local drug lords. Energetic ghetto drama from new director Boaz Yakin.
Electric Ⓢ (0171-792 2020) **MGM Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

HOOP DREAMS (15): Marvellous documentary by Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert about two inner city kids and their dreams of playing professional basketball.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

I.D. (18): Undercover cop becomes football hooligan. Simplistic, sometimes powerful British drama. Philip Davis directs Reece Dinsdale, Richard Graham and Claire Skinner.
MGM Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

◆ **LEGENDS OF THE FALL** (15): Bogus epic about a Montana family early in the century. With Brad Pitt, Aidan Quinn and Anthony Hopkins. Director, Edward Zwick.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LITTLE ODESSA (15): Crime and punishment among Brooklyn's Russian immigrants. Ambitious and atmospheric, with Tim Roth, Maximilian Schell and Vanessa Redgrave.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LITTLE WOMEN (U): Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE** (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner; with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE MAN BY THE SHORE: Piquant recollections of a child growing up in Papa Doc's Haiti. A striking film by Raoul Peck.
ICA Ⓢ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **MURIEL'S WEDDING** (15): Ugly duckling becomes swan in P.J. Hogan's boisterous, queasy Aussie comedy.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONCE WERE WARRIORS** (18): Forceful New Zealand tale of Maori culture ravaged by the urban ghetto. Lee Tamahori directs a powerful cast.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **OUTBREAK** (18): Taut virus thriller that turns silly. With Dustin Hoffman and Rene Russo and Morgan Freeman. Director, Wolfgang Petersen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil. Director, Patrice Chéreau.
MGM Panton Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman.
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Feet first into the dance

Hilary Finch shakes a leg at a Rambert community workshop

Stepping out: participants can learn how a choreographer puts a dance piece together

The invitation is either to Dip your Toe In, Take the Plunge, or go In at the Deep End. I shall leave you to guess which I chose. The Rambert Dance Company's two-week community project in the Swindon area has just reached its grand finale. For £4 you get a three-hour workshop, a ticket for a Rambert performance and a chance to meet the company's choreographers, dancers and musicians.

This is the new, young, relaunched Rambert, complete with live house band, the London Musici: less of the esoteric, the post-modern, the Merce Cunningham, and more of director Christopher Bruce's own brand of accessible, expressive, Martha Graham-influenced works. Communication is all. The top line of the company's educational policy recently submitted to the Arts Council is simply "to get as many people dancing as possible". So, while the schools work continues, the Plunge is Taken in the evenings, with local co-ordinators from youth and community services seeking out those parts which dance-in-the-national-curriculum may not be reaching.

YOUNG AT art

Workshops are meticulously based on every detail of the professional rehearsal process. Participants are not simply told how choreographers, dancers and musicians work: they peer into the minds of the professionals and the processes they will see on stage. How do choreographers get movement out of dancers? Do the musicians lead or follow? If you have never danced before, so much the better.

The season's new repertory piece, Per Jonsson's *Jupiter Is Crying* with music by his compatriot, the provocative Swedish composer Sven-David Sandström, is the focus for action. Jonsson, of *Golek* fame, goes for the irrational, the manic, the extreme. Every movement should be experienced as if for the first time. As the Doc Martens and sweatshirts are thrown aside, a warm-up session, vigorously led by Rambert's education manager Alison Whyte, starts to mould itself into certain key elements: the supremacy of pulse (the score is percussion-based), a magnetic push-pull contact with other dancers, an angular tilting of the body, sudden coil and recoil.

Clare Linturn, company animateur, and Alastair Malloy, percussionist for Mike Oldfield and Björk among others, take over. What movement does this noise — the patter of a rain-maker, a thud of a tom-tom, the swirl of a maracca — bring to mind? Does the music motivate the dancers, or vice versa? A sequence of ten sharply etched movements, based on Jonsson's own, is built up by 30 12 to 18-year-olds. The group then divides into musicians and dancers, and the process of discussion, reaction and response begins. How to echo a balancing movement in sound? What kind of sound can sustain energy during suspended movement, then cut it off? How can a rhythm, or a movement, be condensed?

Considerable demands were made by one group of the other. And a remarkably high degree of complexity of pulse and pace evolved, as rapid shifts of dynamics, speeds, movement textures and silences built into what was a real performance within the last hour.

In the three hours of the workshop, the energy level — even mine — never sagged for a moment. And, yes — you guessed it — this was just Dipping the Toe In.

UP ON YOUR TOES

- Rambert performs *Jupiter Is Crying* — with *Swansong* and *Rooster* — tonight at 7.30pm at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (01793 524481).
- Next week, the company visits the Tameside Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne (0161-308 3223). Performances on Tuesday and Wednesday with two-hour open workshop on Wednesday at 10am.
- Edinburgh Festival Theatre, June 28-July 1 (0131-529 6000) with school workshops from June 19.
- Information about Rambert's education and community work from 0181-994 2366

Hi-fi systems with designs on your lifestyle

No need to sacrifice sound for good looks in a stereo — now you can have the best of both

FUTURE VISIONS

One of the commonest complaints about hi-fi is the way it looks. Cheap hi-fi tends to hide its inadequacies by dressing up like the rear end of a 1950s Cadillac, all blinking lights and brain-dead gadgetry. Super-expensive "high-end" hi-fi often underlines its cool with a post-modernist laboratory image, more likely to X-ray your teeth than play you music. More ordinary equipment — the kind you buy if your chief concern is what comes out of it — generally looks pretty nondescript. Now, however, there is a growing market for so-called "lifestyle" designs — and some of them sound quite good.

Ahead of the field is the Danish company Bang & Olufsen. The company originally made briefcase radios for Allied spies, but in the postwar years it set a new standard in equipment design, with sleek Scandinavian lines that neatly integrated all the controls and indicators other manufacturers left obtrusive. By the 1980s, B & O sound quality was lagging; now part of Philips, it had become increasingly tagged as a middle-class status symbol. A serious rethink was necessary. One of its first fruits, in 1990, was the Beosystem 2500, a CD, tape and radio system in a highly original integrated design, a three-part vertical slab only a few inches deep. Its centre unit holds the playing decks and controls. The equally vertical speakers, with grilles in a choice of glowing colours, stand separately, or clip on either side to make a single unit, light and narrow enough to carry, to stand on a side table or even hang on the wall like a plaque. It sounds excellent, especially for its size. Unfortunately, it also costs £2,000.

Now B & O has brought out the Beosound Century, which reflects the 2500 design very closely but in a simpler form — and at half the price. Once again, we have a central panel flanked by coloured speakers, no longer detachable. A single self-opening door of tinted plastic slides off the panel to reveal the vertically rotating CD deck at the top; in the middle are the radio tuning indicator and a treble row of control buttons, with clear laser-cut legends; and beneath those is the cassette deck, also vertical. The whole thing stands less than 15in high and less than 4in deep, and it is very pleasant to use.

Altogether, the Century sounds less refined than the 2500, and rather "tailored" — for warmth, rather than crystal clarity. As with all small speakers, the bass response is limited; wall mounting should improve this. You can get better sound for £995 — but nothing like as neatly.

The 2500 may also have inspired a new small system from Japanese giant Technics, the SC-LS10 — LS for "lifestyle". This follows the same three-part vertical format, although the colour is a more usual grey-green and the design has some original features of its own. Here an opaque front panel slides up and a chunky metal CD deck tilts through like something from a Spielberg film.

The controls are extremely neat, but even more limited; gimmicky digital sound effects are included, proper tone controls are not. The basic sound is not too brilliant, and though it costs only £800, you do better to pay the extra for the Century.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Fun assured

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

THE male dance company Featherstonehaughs — just say "Fanshaws" — rounds off its successful British tour with a week at Sadler's Wells, and Theatre Club members are invited to meet the company over a glass of wine after the show on June 14. Under artistic director Lea Anderson, the Featherstonehaughs are renowned for their style, character and wit. Their latest show, *Featherstonehaughs Go Las Vegas*, sees the six dancers in the company revelling in a world of glitz and glamour as they high-kick their way through numbers like *Good Morning Las Vegas*, *The Teddy Bears*, *Elvis Legs* and *Chorus Line*. Music is by Steve Blake and Drostan Madden, with costume designs by Sandy Powell, who received an Oscar nomination for his work on the film *Orlando* and was costume designer for *Interview with a Vampire*.

Tickets for the performance and the post-show reception are £15. Telephone 0171-278 6563 to book

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage. **TO JOIN** the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

MORE DATES FOR YOUR THEATRE DIARY

DARLINGTON
Civic Theatre
May 23-27
● CAMBRIDGE Theatre Company presents Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, adapted for the stage by Dawn Keeler. Like Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, recently filmed, it is set in a bustling, opulent world where money and social status reign supreme. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £12.50). Tel 01325 486555

KENDAL
The Brewery
June 3
● VISIT the Lake District with John Godber's *September in the Rain*, a bitter-sweet comedy set in the Blackpool of the past. Based on Godber's own memories of his grandparents, the Hull Truck Theatre Company production is a nostalgic and often poignant view of their 30 years of marriage. Club members can buy two £6.50 tickets for the price of one. Tel 01539 725133

NOTTINGHAM
Playhouse
May 22-26
● SWING into the exotic carnival era of 1930s New Orleans in Tennessee Williams's emotional drama *Vieux Carré*, a macabre production that portrays the lives of people living in a crumbling boarding house in the old French Quarter. Buy one ticket and get a second for half-price (normal prices £9.50 and £11.50). Tel 0115 9419

Paul Shane: turning the clock back in Surrey

Theatre Royal
May 22-25
● TAKE four couples, put them under canvas on a campsite in the Lake District, and what do you get? Find out in the comedy *Bare Necessities*, starring Geoffrey Hughes, Karen Archer and Jeffrey Holland. All tickets half-price (normally £12 to £16) to Theatre Club members. Tel 0115-948 2626

EPSOM
Playhouse
May 23-24
● PAUL SHANE, well-loved from television comedies such as *Hi-De-Hi* and *You Rang, M'Lord*, stars in *Twist and Shout*, a new musical celebrating the 1960s containing more than 30 of the greatest songs from the days of the Mersey beat. Theatre Club members can buy tickets for £10 (normally £12.50). Tel 01372 742555

BRISTOL
Hippodrome
May 23-June 10
● PATTI BOULAYE and Grace Kennedy star in alternate performances of Oscar Hammerstein's brilliant *Carmen Jones*. A classic story of love and passion, with a potent mix of dramatic dancing and sensational songs set to Bizet's music, the show was a huge hit in London's West End. Club members can save £5 on the top two prices for all performances except Saturday evenings (Mon-Thu £20 and £23; Fri £22 and £25; Wed matinee £12 and £15; Sat matinee £15 and £18). Tel 0117-929 9444

The WH Smith featured CD

This week's Times/WH Smith recommended recording offers a compilation of songs from the voice of Britain's leading lyricist, Matt Monro. On this collection of 40 tracks (two CDs), ranging from 1960 to 1980, you will find many of the firmest Monro favourites in addition to many superb songs and performances which have been harder to come by in recent years.

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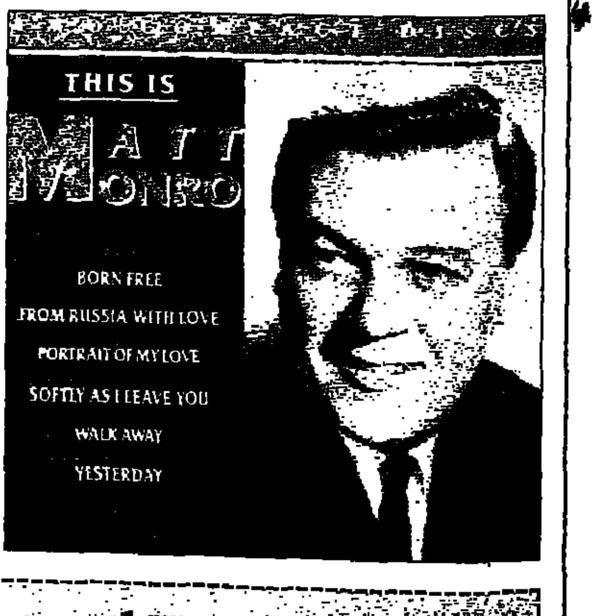

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كذا في الأصل

ARTS

RECORDINGS: A variable Verdi; Vaughan Williams in full sail; Horne's last blast?

OPERA

John Higgins

■ VERDI
Il trovatore
Banaudi/Verrett/Pavarotti/Nucci/Maggio Musicale Orchestra/Mehta
Decca 430 694-2 (2 CDs)★★

DECCA'S *Trovatore* dates from 1990, the year of the World Cup and the Three Tenors concert. With the latter event it shares the presence of Pavarotti and conductor Zubin Mehta. But there the similarities cease. This *Trovatore* is unlikely to alter the public perception of opera as that evening in Rome surely did. Nor is the rest of the cast as impressive.

Mehta's previous recording of *Trovatore*, made for RCA a quarter of a century ago, remains one of the best available, with Domingo, Price & Co all performing with enormous gusto. And *Trovatore*, with scene after scene ending in a call to arms of one kind or another, needs some gusto. But in this recording, Mehta provides it only fitfully, especially in the first half of the opera, which too often sounds undramatic and studio-bound, although the recording was made immediately after a run of stage performances at the Florence Maggio.

There were however a couple of major cast changes, made presumably for contractual reasons. Leo Nucci replaced Giorgio Zancanaro as di Luna and the change was not for the better. Nucci brings a villainous snarl to the part, but he cannot match the latter's suavity in the Act II aria. He shows much better in the last act, when false deals are being made. Shirley Verrett eschews the robust approach of the original Florence Azucena (Dolora Zajick) and substitutes a much more tender figure, with maternal instincts rather than madness to the fore. Again the last act is the best, with Pavarotti producing much graceful singing.

Elsewhere his performance is as variable as Mehta's. Together they turn *Di quella pira* into something truly exciting, with a top C rivalling anything Pavarotti was to unleash in Caracalla a month later. World Cup form. At other times, and especially in the concerted numbers, the tenor seems oddly unengaged.

Mehta: unimaginative

But the main question mark has to hang over the soprano, Antonella Banaudi. She has an opulent voice, but too often sounds inexperienced and in need of spurring on. The Act I aria is stolid and unimaginative and it is not until di Luna puts thoughts of poison and suicide into her head that she emerges at last as a true Verdian. With the likes of Callas, Price and Milanov all challenging in the catalogue it is difficult to be too enthusiastic. And what has become of her since 1990? The Ferrando is routine.

Mehta's second go at the opera only just makes the two-star category. With the exception of Giulini on DG, the best *Trovatores* were recorded many years ago.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
A Sea Symphony
Roocroft/Hampson/BBC Symphony Orchestra/Davis
Teldec 4509-94550-2★★★

THIS is the latest in Teldec's cycle of Vaughan Williams symphonies under Andrew Davis, and it fully maintains the high standards set so far. Davis and his forces (the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus — the latter flourishing these days under the direction of Stephen Jackson) revel in the work's great tidal flows and rhetorical moments: the dramatic curtain-raising opening, for example ("Behold, the Sea") or "Where the great vessel sailing" (in the Scherzo, *The Waves*), which unfurls like Whitman's "white sails, bellying in the wind". Davis catches that sense of grandeur without sacrificing any of the underlying animation.

The finale (*The Explorers*) looks forward to the meditative slow epilogues of later Vaughan Williams symphonies, but it does it with ripely Romantic harmonies and some swifter interludes. Again Davis gauges the mood perfectly and the chorus has the necessary control to do proper justice to it.

Vaughan Williams: tidal

Thomas Hampson is a hearty but always musical baritone soloist. Amanda Roocroft the able soprano.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ BARTOK
Works for Piano Vol 3: For Children
Zoltán Kocsis
Philips 442146-2★★★

ARE you sitting comfortably? Well, you won't be for long: Bartók's four books of piano pieces, *For Children*, are neither cosy fireside tales nor simple teaching pieces. In this third volume of his continuing *Complete Works for Piano Solo* (to be completed by 1998), Zoltán Kocsis shows once again how vital it is to get deep under the linguistic skin and into the muscle of the often tough and troubling folk music which Bartók recomposed for the piano.

This compilation, seldom performed all at one go, is like an anthology of the composer's creative thought processes during his methodical explorations into Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian folk music. Yet it is not just for dipping into. Kocsis forges a totally compelling recital out of the 38 tiny pieces. Here is a tolling round-dance from the abysm of time, a tricksy "jeering song", a winter solstice song of robust primitivism, a wild, high peasant's flute and a fleeting, ambiguous wedding song.

With a touch which can change from iron to silk in seconds, and with a deep understanding of the special "speaking" rubato and maverick rhythmic inflections of this music, Kocsis recreates a vibrant collage of resonance from a world strangely distant yet omnipresent.

☐ CHABRIER
Piano Works
Kathryn Stott
Unicorn-Kanchana DKP(CD) 9158★★

EMMANUEL CHABRIER'S own vigorous, uninhibited piano playing made it hard for him to be taken quite seriously enough by promoters and impresarios during his short composing life at the end of the last century. Little fuss was made last year of the centenary of his death, and much of his totally distinctive music — tender and outrageous, comic and sublime by turn — is still under-recorded.

But Chabrier could hardly have had a more sympathetic ally than Kathryn Stott. Here, she focuses on his ten *pièces pittoresques*: a *Paysage* both for reflection and for gamboling in delight, a blustering *Menuet pompeux* and an *Idylle* in which frisky nonchalance is threaded through some nicely knotted fingerwork.

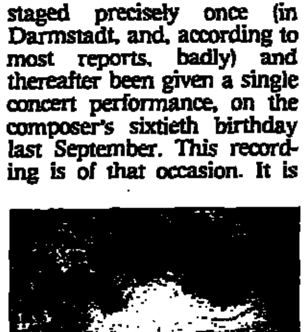
Stott also plays six more pieces, including an Impromptu dedicated to Manet's wife, in which Schubert and Chopin cast dappled light on the daringly volatile surface of Chabrier's own writing. Alfred Cortot's arrangements for four hands of the *Trois valses romantiques* (with Elizabeth Burley) make a heady finale.

CONTEMPORARY

Stephen Pettitt

■ MAXWELL DAVIES
Resurrection
Jones/Robson/Hill/Jenkins/Herford/Finley/Best/BBC Philharmonic Orchestra/Maxwell Davies
Collins Classics 70342 (2 CDs)★★★

IN its eight-year lifetime, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's long-gestated opera *Resurrection* has fared worse for performances even than its predecessor, *Tavener*. So far it has been staged precisely once (in Darmstadt, and, according to most reports, badly) and thereafter been given a single concert performance, on the composer's sixtieth birthday last September. This recording is of that occasion. It is stunning, immediate and confident beyond all expectations. And though in the hall it could never be so, on disc it is also well-balanced, with the rock singer Mary Carewe, who plays the sinister "prime mover" figure of the Cat, amplified so as not to be drowned out by her operatic colleagues or by the sheer force of the various ensembles cast about her.


Maxwell Davies: surreal

Her numbers, backed by the rock band Blaze, increase in force throughout the work, symbolising the pressure of a consumer-orientated society on the non-singing, non-speaking, non-being hero, the Dummy, to abandon his individualism. Eventually, thanks to an operation that goes wrong, the Dummy rises as the Antichrist. Consumerism, symbolised here by the parodistic sequence of television advertisements sung by a vocal quartet that knits the piece together, gives rise to dictatorship.

It all sounds very serious, but Maxwell Davies puts together this surreal assembly with a good deal of wit as well as anger and the usual barrage of brilliant, pointed parody. There is also an amusing sexual aspect, although almost in passing the work does a serious enough service for the gay cause. The opera opens with the Dummy being berated by his Mam for masturbating, an innocent act condemned by the very zealots whom the opera savages and who are glimpsed in an hilarious scene near the end groping each other in a public convenience.

The cast — Della Jones, Christopher Robson (curiously doubling as Mam and Zeus), Martyn Hill, Neil Jenkins (a memorably absent-minded Vicar and blood-and-thunder Hot Gospeller), Henry Herford, Gerald Finley and Jonathan Best — is magnificent. So, under the composer's own direction, is the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The two discs together last less than 90 minutes but are offered at a special price.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ ELVIS COSTELLO
Kojak Variety
Warner Bros. 9362-45903★

THROWING his hat into an over-crowded ring, Elvis Costello is the latest pop star to indulge himself in an album of cover versions. But unlike Annie Lennox, Duran Duran and the others, his choice of songs reveals some fairly obscure enthusiasms.

"I found *Strange* on the B-side of a Screaming Jay Hawkins single on Roulette," he writes in the sleeve notes, which provide a detailed commentary on the provenance of all 15 selections. It is a voyage across some mixed terrain: from the dark, bluesy swing of Mose Allison's *Everybody's Crying Mercy* and the pub-rock shuffle of James Carr's *Pouring Water on a Drowning Man* to the unabashed crooning of the Nat "King" Cole standard *The Very Thought of You.*

Although undertaken in a spirit of enthusiasm and adventure, there is a curiously reductive quality to Costello's performances as he flits nonchalantly from Little Richard's rock'n'roll stomper *Bama Lama Bama Loo* to the maudlin strains of the Louvin Brothers' *Must You Throw Dirt in my Face*. You hum it, mate, I'll play it.

And even allowing for more familiar inclusions — Bob Dylan's *I Threw It All Away* and an overwrought version of Ray Davies's *Days* — the album is more of an archaeological dig than a celebration of a "great" body of songs.

One or two nuggets do surface. *Remove This Doubt*, an overlooked Holland-Dozier-Holland gem which Costello discovered on a long-deleted album by the Supremes, proves to be a gripping performance of a Motown ballad to rank with the best. But although the album provides an intriguing insight into the man's record collection, is this really what Costello's fans want to hear him play?

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ PULP
Common People
Island 854329★★

ITS slender melody and Jarvis Cocker's royally untutored vocals are in constant danger of being swamped by the wall-of-sound production. But *Common People* is swept along to a triumphant finish by the romping bravado of Pulp's performance and the brazen narrative thrust of Cocker's lyric.

"She said, 'I want to live like common people, I want to sleep with common people like you'," Cocker sings, finally adding his laddish rejoinder, "I said, 'I'll see what I can do'".

Combining theatrical flair with sly social commentary and a sure populist touch, *Common People*, and its similarly piquant B-side, *Underwear*, confirms Pulp's appeal as one of the most engaging and unusual pop groups to come along in many a year.

Cocker: brazen thrust

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ LENA HORNE
An Evening With Lena Horne
Blue Note import CDP-8318772★★★

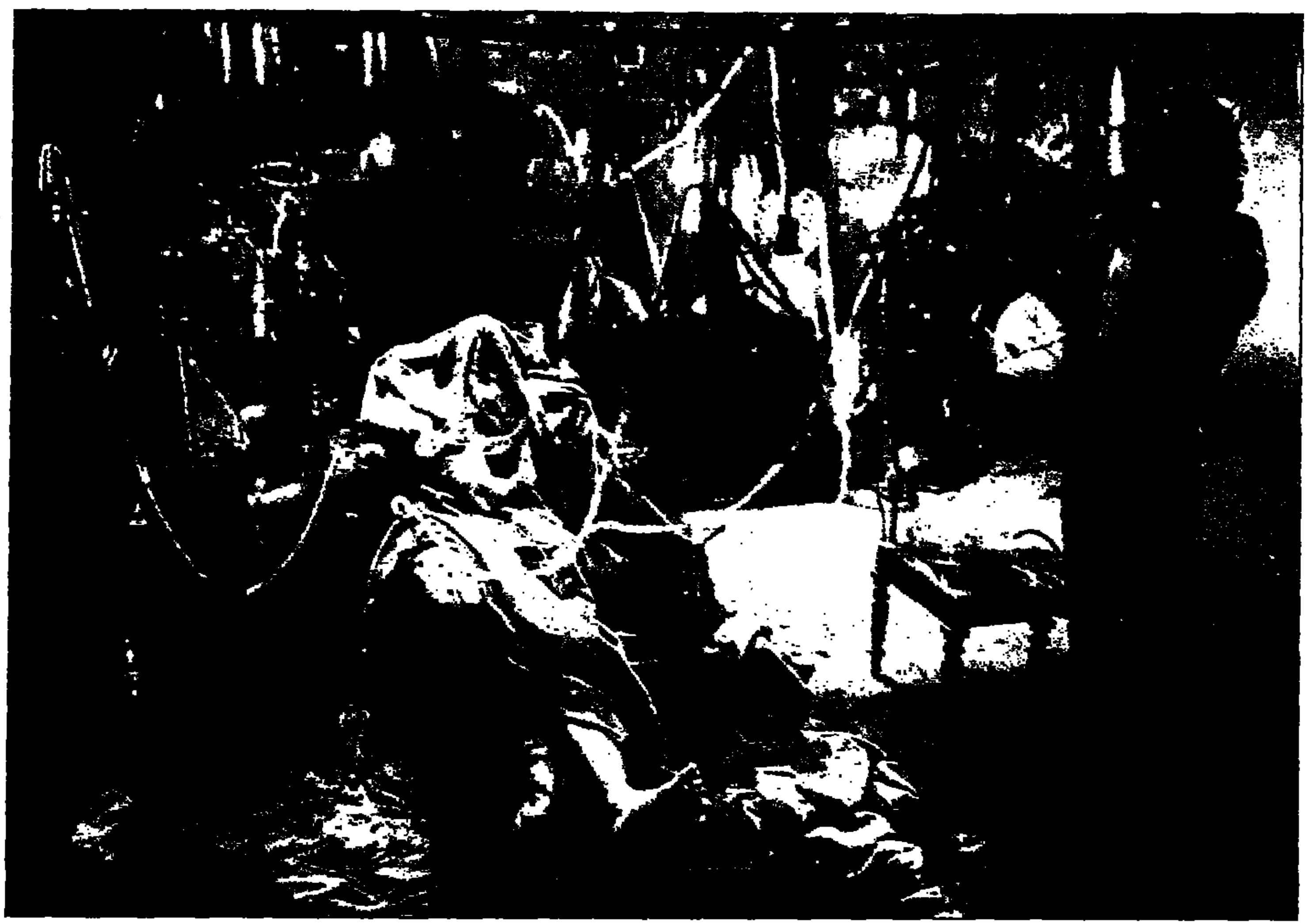
LIVING proof that you can be sassy at 70 and over. Lena Horne broke a lengthy, self-imposed silence last year with the release of the studio album *We'll Be Together Again*. This live recording, made last autumn, captures what could be her last hurrah.

Horne's voice has lost a good deal of precision, yet in some respects it has also grown more expressive. Where, as a young woman, she once sounded imperious and aloof, she now conveys a poignant sense of vulnerability. The sentiments of the show-stopping number *Yesterday When I Was Young* take on the intensity of a final testament.

Her skill at re-shaping the contours of a melody to compensate for her frailties means that each song has the improvisatory flavour of a work-in-progress. She dispatches her two opening pieces, *Come Runnin'* and *Maybe*, with hands-on-hips defiance and continues to throw punches until a slightly ragged finale on *The Lady is a Tramp* — a number this arch-individualist was born to sing.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

NEW ON VIDEO: Kenneth Branagh assembles a monster; Ingmar Bergman dissects a marriage


Laboratory conditions: Kenneth Branagh at work as Victor Frankenstein in a rampaging horror film let down by a lack of discipline

■ MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN
Columbia TriStar, 15, 1994

KENNETH BRANAGH'S rampaging horror movie features cinema trickery without end, sexual passions, gory details (Robert De Niro's Creature seems stitched with barbed wire), tongue-in-cheek humour and striking sets ranging from Frankenstein's attic laboratory to the Arctic wastes. What it lacks, above all, is discipline. Branagh appears as the misguided Victor; Helena Bonham Carter is his unfortunate lady love, while John Cleese passes through, teaching anatomy with lines such as, "Mr Frankenstein, the incision is yours". Available to rent.

■ AGUIRRE, WRATH OF GOD
Tartan, 15, 1972

WHO else but Werner Herzog would make a film in the Amazon jungle about a megalomaniac conquistador, leading a renegade group from Pizarro's expedition in search of El Dorado? And who else but wild-eyed Klaus Kinski could fill Aguirre's shoes so well? No German film today can match this for ambition and hypnotic visual power. The tape also includes *Land of Silence and Darkness*, Herzog's tender documentary about the life, friends and interior world of a blind and deaf woman.

■ EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES
PolyGram, 15, 1993

CULT director Gus Van Sant comes a cropper with this unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel about a hitchhiking, big-thumbed cowgirl and her health-farm pals. If the film had been made as an experimental fling when the book appeared in 1976, it might have caught more of Robbins's free spirit. Now it appears a film of fragments, wasted cameo appearances and striking images in search of a good home. With Uma Thurman, John Hurt, Rain Phoenix. A rental release.

■ LA RUPTURE
Art House, 18, 1970

CLAUDE CHABROL takes lethal aim at the bourgeois family unit in this turbulent thriller. Stéphane Audran, married to the director at the time, is fighting to keep her son after the collapse of her marriage to a drug addict. Determined to trip her up, her father-in-law hires an unsavoury character (Jean-Pierre Cassel) to dog her steps and discredit her character. Bizarre cat and mouse games follow, under the unpredictable shadow of fate. One of the bleakest, most startling films from the best period of Chabrol's career.

■ SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE
Tartan, 15, 1973

INGMAR BERGMAN'S treatment of a marriage break-up and its aftermath offers two extraordinarily subtle performances by Liv Ullmann and Erland Josephson, and some piercing home truths about the wayward ways in which people understand their own emotions. Originally a six-part television series, this cinema digest makes no concession to the big screen: the camera stays close to the characters and rarely moves outdoors. Uncomfortable but powerful viewing.

■ SMILES OF A SUMMER NIGHT
Tartan, 15, 1955

BERGMAN was never all doom and gloom, and his bright side dominates this witty philosophical comedy about life, love, manners and mismatched partners at a country-house weekend. Some 20 years later, Stephen Sondheim turned the film into his waltz-haunted musical, *A Little Night Music*, while Woody Allen performed his own variation in *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*. But Bergman's original, featuring Ulla Jacobsson, Eva Dahlbeck, Gunnar Björnstrand and Harriet Andersson, has an elegance and wickedness all its own. Presented in a boxed set with Bergman's new book, *Images*.

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GARDENING

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, on a nurseryman's bid for success at the big show

Cultivating the Midas touch at Chelsea

PETER TREVNOR

Aubrey Barker, preparing for Chelsea, checks a *Phlox* 'Charles Ricardo'. In the foreground, *Ajuga retans* 'Pink Elf'

As you read this column, Aubrey Barker, a nurseryman, will be transforming a four-tonne lorry load of potted plants into a splendid floral display for the 1995 Chelsea Flower Show in London next week.

Weeks of careful selection, bringing some plants forward, holding others back, followed by hard, round-the-clock work on the show ground from Thursday until next Monday morning, will culminate in the maximum impact possible during the four-day show.

Like other exhibitors, Mr Barker's twin aims are to win a gold medal from the Royal Horticultural Society, which will pass judgment on his display on Monday, and approval from the 170,000 visitors who are expected to visit the show from Tuesday to Friday.

Mr Barker, who runs Hopleys Plants, at Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, exhibits at other shows all over the country but is convinced that Chelsea is the most rewarding place to succeed, because it remains the sternest test of horticultural and display skills. Unlike some exhibitors at Chelsea who, controversially, buy in plants for their displays, Hopleys uses all its own material.

The nursery is a family business started 26 years ago by Mr Barker's parents. He began full-time work there 11 years ago and took over in 1990. The nursery's reputation rests on a good selection of hardy and half-hardy shrubs and perennials, and the introduction of new plants. *Potentilla* 'Red Ace' and the pinky-white flowered *Lavatera* 'Barnsley' have been the two most commercially successful, and Hopleys has sold 20,000 lavatera plants.

Mr Barker says that nurseries have different priorities when creating exhibition plants for Chelsea. Some aim for the spectacular, coaxing plants to flower or attain leaf size in excess of what they normally produce. Mr Barker has neither the space nor the manpower to grow specifically for the show, so his display is put together from nursery stock. He says he goes to Chelsea to exhibit plants ideal for people's gardens, and adds: "I want to show the same plants that they can buy and plant out at home."

In the past, Hopleys has always displayed hardy and half-hardy shrubs and perennial plants, but trying to combine shrubs and perennials has not always impressed the exacting judges of the RHS who, in the past ten years, have only once awarded Hopleys a gold medal. This year's display is made up mainly of perennials, with shrubs being used only in a background role.

Last year, Mr Barker chose Chelsea to launch *Verbena* 'Pink Parfait', which is strongly fragrant with bicoloured pink and red flowers. The plant has proved so popular that the nursery cannot cope with demand and have arranged for other growers to supply garden centres and nurseries. But, despite its success, *V.* 'Pink Parfait' was a classic example of the pitfalls of preparing Chelsea: the artificial light that was necessary to bring the plants into flower faded the colours from their vibrant best.

This year, Mr Barker is introducing a new pink-flowered form of *Solenopsis axillaris*, a tender perennial from New Zealand, and *Sphaeralcea* 'Hopley's Lavender', a mallow-like shrub with mauve flowers. To be ready for Chelsea, however, this summer-flowering plant needed a spell in the propagating house. A combination of heat rising up from the floor through the layer of stand on which pots are stood, foliar feed mixed into the automatic irrigation system, and a constantly warm humid atmosphere were needed to produce rapid maturing in plant size and flower buds.

New introductions are not always available, so Mr Barker makes sure that he has a good selection of rare plants that visitors to Chelsea might not know. A good example this year is the half-hardy evergreen Australian shrub, *Westringia fruiticosa* 'Synyabbi Gem'. Westringias usually have white flowers, but this one is a delicate pale mauve and is ideal for conservatories.

Novelties and rarities contribute only a small proportion of the 300 different plants that make up the Hopleys display. For two weeks before being packed, the plants stood outdoors with plenty of space around them to encourage the best possible growth, some hidden away from the sun, others given the maximum heat and light to bring them on — but without unnatural forcing, which is never a good idea because the oppressive, sunless atmosphere in Chelsea's marquee makes survival a daunting challenge. Forced plants are unlikely to last, and Mr Barker says that few plants brought back to the nursery recover from the programme of moving, battering and unhealthy atmosphere.

Hot competition in the Great Marquee at Chelsea

The move from the nursery to Chelsea began on Thursday, with the first lorry-load carrying the wooden structure for paths and walls and the butyl rubber lining for a small pond (no fish or other wildlife are allowed at the show). Cobble stones and bark will conceal the lining's edges and rolls of cultivated turf make natural grass paths.

The basic division between hardy and half-hardy plants was sorted out at the nursery, but grouping and placing will be done on site. Where possible, the plants are left in their pots for better moisture retention. The pots themselves are disguised with a covering of bark chippings.

Labelling will take three to four hours tomorrow, and by the evening a list of the show plants will be faxed to the printers for immediate printing in time for the big day — Monday morning.

This is when the judges and the Royal visitors tour the stands, and is followed by four more days of scrutiny, criticism and, it is hoped, admiration.

After the long-term preparation of choosing plants, the fortnight before Chelsea and the show week itself is a time of intensive, costly work for Hopleys. During the week before the show, there are six people in the nursery giving the final touches to the plants and dealing with day-to-day nursery business. Today and tomorrow, there will be eight people setting up the display, and throughout the show the stand will be manned by four people. The final day, of dismantling and clearing up, will probably be done by a team of ten, to guarantee a speedy departure.

Taking into account the dip in business which occurs at the nursery during Chelsea week, Mr Barker estimates that appearing at the show costs him up to £10,000. However, he feels it is worth all the effort as long as Chelsea continues to be a show at which nurseries cannot sell plants, at least not until the last day. This is a controversial issue which divides exhibitors. Some feel that Chelsea is not moving with the times. Mr Barker counters that at Chelsea he is free to present his plants, talk to visitors, listen to their questions and help them to go away with increased knowledge. Selling plants would stop this communication. Experience at the other big shows suggests that he would have little time for anything other than putting plants in carrier bags and taking money.

However attractive the financial gain, I believe that he is right and that commercial pressure should not be allowed to threaten horticultural excellence and the rapport between exhibitors and visitors, which is such a feature of our premier show.

● Hopleys Plants, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire (01279 842509); Chelsea stand K2 in the marquee.

● The Chelsea ticket hotline (0171-396 4696) for Thurs and Fri, May 25-26, is open until noon, May 24.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q A lot of my daffodil bulbs came up blind this year. Can I do anything to ensure that they will flower in future, or should I dig them up and throw them away? — Mrs V. Tapson, Newton Abbot, Devon.

A Never be afraid to dig up a seriously ailing plant at a suitable time of year, to see what is going on at the root. So often the answer presents itself immediately — insect damage or rot of some kind — and you can take positive steps to solve the problem without wondering and waiting for another year. Most of us wait too long before digging for an answer.

In your case, there may be basal rot after an exceptionally wet winter. Signs of distortion and spotting of the leaves may mean bulb and stem eelworm attack. Virus is the other big problem with daffodils, mottling the leaves and weakening the bulbs to the point where they barely flower.

If your bulbs look generally healthy, the problem may be congestion and shallow planting. Try lifting the affected clumps, dividing them, and resetting them a good foot down with a little bonemeal. Unless there are signs of disease, there is no need to throw any bulbs away, but be prepared for them to take a year to build up flowering strength again.

Although the best time to lift and divide daffodils is after the leaves have died down in late summer, they can be lifted and split in leaf, either after flowering, or just as they nose through the soil.

Q We want to replace a winter jasmine on a southwest wall with something a little more glamorous and which smells good, if possible. It is a windy spot, and I am not good at tying things up. Would honeysuckle or clematis do? — Mary Douglas-Bate, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

A Honeysuckle and a clematis (or two) would certainly do, but you would need to put up wires or a trellis for a clematis, and to tie it in each year. The honeysuckle would require tying-in only in the first year. Why not grow a small fan or espalier apple or pear — for its blossom and to support your clematis? Having the permanent branch structure makes it easier for a clematis to hoist itself up without regular helping hands in a windy place. You would have the apple to prune, of course, but it is not difficult so much as methodical. Buy one on a suitably dwarfing rootstock or, perhaps, plant two or three cordon apples to cross fertilise and produce fruit.

Q I have a lovely bush of *Viburnum carlesii*, but every year, as it comes into leaf and the flowers are about to open, the leaves curl and wither. Is this a fungal problem or caused by an insect? — V. Staples, Edinburgh.

A There is an aphis which attacks *Viburnum carlesii* and *V. juddii*, just as they are coming into flower, and spoiling their big moment. The perfume of the pink and white flower clusters is so strong that you are attracted from yards away, and when you put your nose to them the blighted leaves become apparent.

You can spray with insecticides, preferably using a systemic kind, as the damaged leaves tend to scroll inwards, preventing you spraying all the underside. I prefer to spray the plant in winter with a tar-oil wash, which gives the plant a clean start to the season. The same treatment holds good for plants of the guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*, and its varieties, which are prone to aphis attack as the leaves begin to expand. The damage, if unchecked, can stunt all the early season growth on affected twigs. Damaged leaves frequently become mildewed, but it is better to treat the problem itself, the insect, rather than the symptom, a mould.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Courgettes and marrows can be planted out, preferably after hardening off in a cold frame.*
- *Plant dahlia tubers into well-composted ground.*
- *Check greenhouse plants for whitefly, looking on the underside of leaves and removing the pests by hand.*
- *Shade the inside of your greenhouse by painting the glass with a Coolglas solution to prevent plants being scorched.*
- *Take basal cuttings from hardy perennials as they put on new growth.*
- *Water any tubs and other planted containers daily in hot weather, either in early morning or evening.*

THE TIMES

Win tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show

plus a special offer on RHS membership

Today, *The Times* in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, is offering readers the chance to win one of 20 pairs of tickets to the Chelsea Flower Show next Thursday, May 25. Held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, show gardens will be on display alongside millions of flowers. The latest advances in gardening equipment and techniques, flower arranging, floristry and garden design are also on show.

To win a pair of tickets telephone your answer to the question (right) before midnight tomorrow May 21, leaving your details and a daytime telephone number. The 20 winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date, and notified on Monday.

In addition, the Royal Horticultural Society is also offering all readers an exclusive saving of 10% on the cost of membership to the society and a complimentary copy of its beautifully illustrated Gardener's Five-year Record Book, worth £10.25. For just £27 (normally £30) Times readers can enjoy the many benefits of RHS membership including:

- ● A monthly copy of The Garden worth £2.50
- ● Privileged tickets for the Chelsea and Hampton Court Palace Flower Shows
- ● Special entry to RHS flower shows at Westminster, Malvern, Harrogate and BBC Gardeners' World Live.
- ● Free advice from the RHS Gardening Advice Service

If you are not one of our lucky winners there are still some tickets available for the Chelsea Flower Show on Thursday May 25. To book call FIRST CALL on 0171 396 4696 before noon on Wednesday May 24.

Question: In what year was the RHS founded? **a) 1804 b) 1814 c) 1824**

Call 0891 66 55 04 before midnight tomorrow May 21.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p at other times

To: RHS Membership Dept, PO Box 313, London SW1P 2PE. Please enrol me as a member of the RHS at the special rate of £27 and send me my free Gardener's Five-year Record Book.

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Gardens to visit this weekend

A stream and linking ponds are a feature of Abbotsbury Gardens

☐ **Abbotsbury Gardens, Abbotsbury, Dorset (01305 871130).**

Nine miles southwest of Dorchester, off the B3157. Open daily Mar-Oct, 10am-5pm; Nov-Feb (except Dec 25, 26 and Jan 1), 10am-3pm. £3.80, children £1.

Protection from belts of evergreen oaks helps plants to thrive in this "sub-tropical" garden. Chusan palms, *Trachycarpus fortunei*, tower over borders in the Victorian walled garden. During the 19th century, trees and shrubs introduced from Asia, America and Australia were planted by the 4th Earl of Ilchester, a botanist. Paths lead out from the walled garden into 20 acres of woodland garden, with a stream linking three pools along the central valley. The planting is notable for the range and size individual specimens have attained, such as the Caucasian Wing-nut, *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*, or the many cornus, including the rare *Cornus* 'Ormonde', which has striking large white flowers similar to its parent plant, *C. nuttallii*. Drifts of candelabra primulas are now in flower along the banks of the stream.

☐ **28 Hillgrove Crescent, Kidderminster (01562 751957).**

Hillgrove Crescent is off Bromsgrove road into Kidderminster, near juction of A448 and A449. Open tomorrow, June 25 and Aug 6, 2-6pm. £1.50, children free.

Malley and David Terry's garden is 130ft by 40ft and an object lesson in enlivening the traditional town garden. A central lawn is flanked by borders, one deep with a curving front. Paths lead around raised gravel beds to the far end. Four apple trees on the lawn support various clematis. Beyond an arch of the buff-flowered 'Rêve d'Or' rose is the "woodland", shaded by a beech and an oak. Here there are lots of dicentras, yellow-flowered *Uvularia grandiflora*, double white-flowered *Anemone* 'Alba Plena', and ferns. An *Halesia carolina* tree with small pendulous white flowers is out now.

☐ **Cholmondeley Castle, near Malpas, Cheshire (01829 720 383/203).**

On A49 between Tarporley and Whitchurch. Open May-Oct, Wed, Thur, Sun and Bank Hol Mons, noon-5.30pm. £2.60, children 75p.

Built on a hill at the beginning of the 19th century, the castle overlooks spectacular parkland, but the garden has been almost entirely created since the 1950s by the Marchioness of Cholmondeley and her late husband. Where the sloping ground is terraced, the retaining walls provide shelter for mixed borders in front with abutilons, ceanothus and clematis trained against the walls. Lower down the slope, the garden has a well-devised mix of formal and informal areas. The immaculate rose garden has raised beds edged with stone and lavender and rambling varieties trained over arches and, on one side, double herbaceous borders flank the path leading out. In the glade, a mixture of ornamental trees and shrubs include rhododendrons, azaleas and a mature handkerchief tree, *Davidia involucrata*. Perhaps the best area is the temple garden with its stream flowing into a lake.

G.P.

مكبر من الاصل

Past glory gets the kiss of life

Stephen Anderton on the restoration of the 19th-century gardens at Brodsworth Hall in Yorkshire

Those of us in the garden restoration business agree that it usually takes six to ten years to restore a garden fully: not just getting colourful, short-term plantings going again, but establishing new generations of the trees and larger shrubs, and getting them to look comfortable once more. Comfortable is the right word, because garden restoration, like major surgery, can be a painful, invasive business. When English Heritage opens Brodsworth Hall and its garden, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, to the public on July 6, restoration will have been under way for five years. The patient is, as they say, sitting up and ready to take visitors. And smiling. Having been employed there to wield the knife, I find it a pleasure and a great relief to see the pulse returning.

An elaborate fountain and pool at Brodsworth

Brodsworth Hall and its 14-acre garden were given to English Heritage by the late Pamela Williams in 1990. The hall needed £3 million repair work. The contents were bought by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, for £3.6 million, to be shown *in situ*.

The house and garden present a rosy picture of an 1860s country estate: not a dreary Gothic monster of rearing gables but a bright, Italianate house with a fascinating, ambitiously contrived garden to match.

If only the gardens could have been held in suspended animation for 130 years. But gardens develop with a will of their own and the picture now is entirely different. Plants spread into every space when no gardener intervenes. Imagine a country house, where soft furnishings expand in all directions by a yard every year, seedling bungalows sprout on the carpets and on the roof, and the walls double in height every ten years. That is how gardens develop.

Gardening at Brodsworth, like work on the house, had coasted to a standstill over the past 60 years. Lawns and hedges and formal beds had been tended with a rude kind of gentleness. With every passing year, naked marble nymphs were being dragged inexorably backwards into the shubberies by grubby hands of yew. Lawns of virgin, magnesian limestone grassland, which have never seen selective weedkillers, developed a wild flora of thyme, cowslips, rock roses, milkwort, rest harrow and twayblades. The result is as spectacular as it is interesting: a rare survival.

Brodsworth has a five-acre quarry garden, too, of 18th-century origin, but in the 1860s it was turned into a fairyland of bridges, dells and mini-vistas, like some vast Brobdignagian crazy-golf course. Here, in 1990, nature reigned supreme. There was not an open space which had not been filled with seedling laurel, ash and, of course, sycamore.

In the rose garden, enchanter's *nightshade (Circaea lutetiana)*, that potent but little-respected pernicious weed, had invaded the low box hedges. Sixty yards of curving iron pergola sulked, rustily. Summerhouses, of Swiss and classical inspiration, crumbled under the drip of trees. And, in best Stephen King style, the pets' cemetery at the heart of the grove continued to receive the occasional body.

It is not easy to repeat in a garden that architectural policy of "conserve as found". When Brodsworth opens, the faded, scarlet-and-gilt elegance of the houses interiors will look as lived in as they did in the 1990s, the wear and tear of 130 years arrested but worn with pride. In the grounds, radical clearance had to be done, so that the designed garden, rather than indiscriminate vegetation, could be seen.

Even after clearance, the development of the passing years is still there to be seen. In the formal flower garden, dwarf cypresses once used as winter bedding in marble vases were planted out long ago and have become green pyramids 10ft tall. Specimens of many varieties of clipped holly are beginning to regain their close, mushroom outlines, although much bigger than they were in the late 19th century.

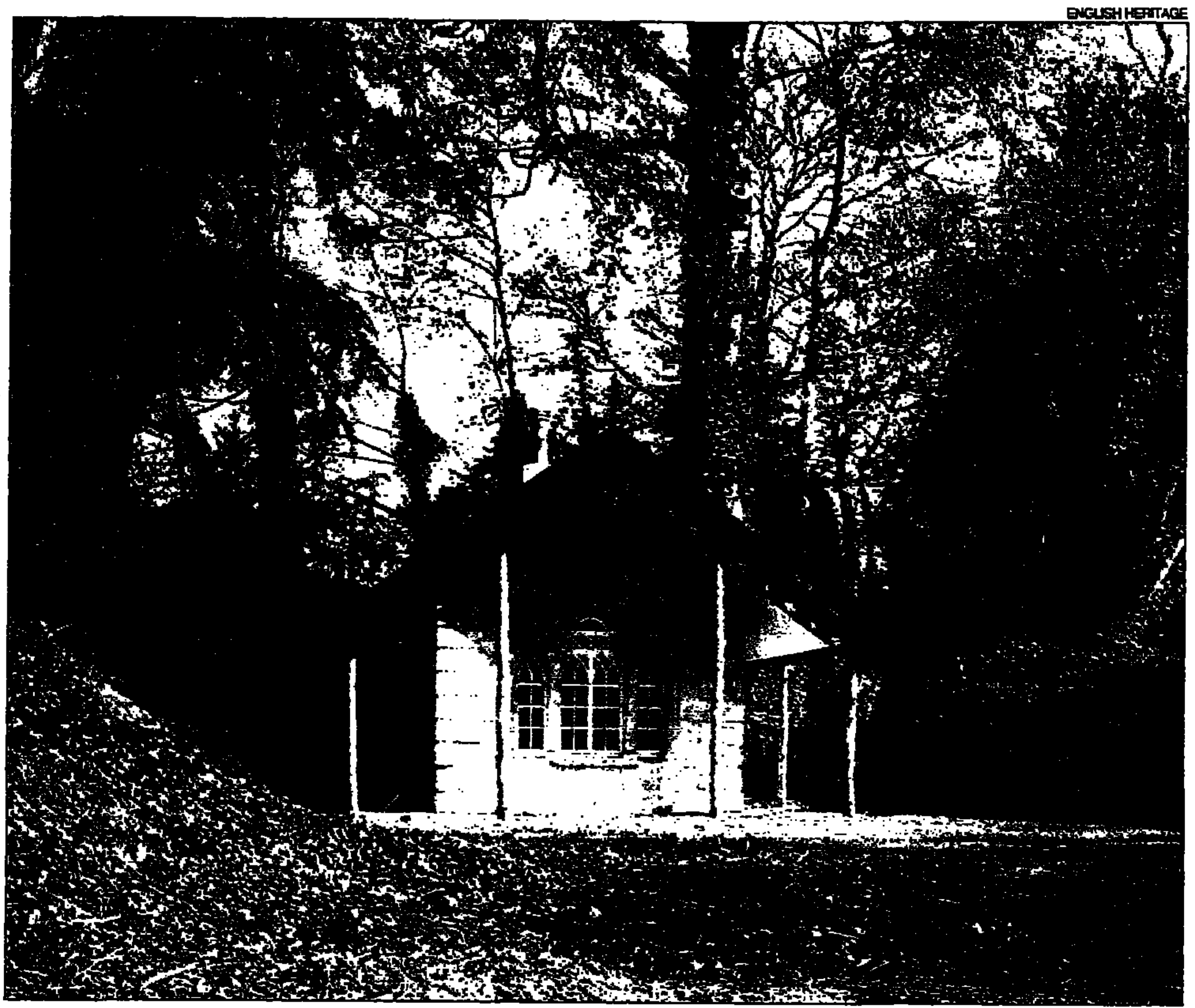
Restoration of the Privy Garden at Hampton Court is reinstating exactly the scale of the garden as new, removing ancient yews and replacing them with correct, tiny spires. But Brodsworth's charm lies in its continuous development. It is a rare garden indeed that benefits throughout from being started again all at one moment. Hampton's Privy Garden was meant to be seen as one great eyeful, but most gardens subdivide into separate areas of different character, and there is a lot to be said for not attacking everything at once: for keeping trees or shrubberies that will have to be tackled in the future but which, for now, keep some of the atmosphere and punctuation of the garden, and shelter. Except for the most formal gardens, regular, ongoing repair is better than sudden total refurbishment.

As in any garden, the things which get most attention survive best — lawn has to be cut regularly, for instance — so the original, symmetrical pattern of beds in the flower garden, simply cut out of the turf, has survived perfectly. On the other hand, specimen hollies and 30ft strawberry trees (*Arbutus unedo*) were left to their own devices and were, until recently, enveloped in elder and laurel. Now that they have full light again they will need time to thicken.

Robert Thompson's *Gardener's Apprentice*, of 1859 gives examples of most of the Brodsworth shapes, and could have been the inspiration for the flower garden. Soon, the flower garden and its summer bedding will be ablaze with hot colours again.

Many of the garden buildings — the Swiss summerhouse, pergola and bridges — have been repaired, and more will be treated over the next two years. Ferns will go back into the gloriously Victorian fern dell, with its terraced rockwork cascade and "river" of white gravel running between bridges. The rose garden and pergola are being given fresh soil to avoid rose sickness, lashings of manure, and a new planting of period roses. New rose plants fare badly in soil which has grown roses for long periods. The box hedges will be freed of enchanter's nightshade by applications of glyphosate. Lawns will be cut long to accommodate the different wild flowers. And the monkey puzzle tree, that symbol of Victorian gardening, will again rear its ungainly domes throughout the garden.

ENGLISH HERITAGE


The Swiss summerhouse in the five-acre quarry garden, together with pergolas and bridges, has been restored after many years of neglect

Getting there

☐ Brodsworth Hall (01302 722598), six miles NW of Doncaster, South Yorkshire, W of A1 between A635 and A638.

☐ Opening times: July 6-Oct 15. Tues-Sun and Bank Holidays, 1-6pm (last admisssion 5pm). Gardens open from noon. Guided tours from 10am for pre-booked parties.

☐ Entrance: adults £4, children £2, concessions £3. English Heritage members free; group rates available.

☐ Shop, restaurant/tearoom. Suitable for picnics.

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Many people are daunted by the thought of bidding at a saleroom, but it is easy. **Derwent May** offers a beginner's guide to auctions

Going, going . . . go for it

The old joke about scratching your ear and finding you have just bought an old bed for £1,000 has put many people off the idea of going to auctions. But there was never much truth in it and, nowadays, if there is a risk, it is just the opposite — that when the bidding is fast and furious, your own bid from the edge of the room will pass unnoticed.

In fact, auctions are friendly events, and attending them can be great fun. Many collections have been enhanced by chance saleroom finds, so keep an eye on your local newspaper to spot upcoming auctions in your area. But you need to know something about the procedures, and if you want to buy anything really beautiful — from an Art Deco tiepin to a four-poster bed — you need to do a little preparatory work.

There are many kinds of auctions — sales of great paintings and furniture at the big London auction houses, country-house sales at which the contents of the house — from rolling pins to sideboards — are on offer, and little local sales in small towns throughout the country. At all of them, the items for sale are on show for several days beforehand, and there is generally a catalogue available. So always have a good look first.

If you see a handsome wardrobe that you like, do not hesitate to have it moved away from the wall so that you can have a look at the back too. You are not in an art gallery, even though the art may be as fine. Lie on beds, sit on chairs, make sure they are comfortable and not on the point of collapse. Make sure watches work, clasps close and glass isn't chipped or cracked. Check for signs of woodworm, repairs and damage. Generally speaking, the lots are sold "as seen", so if you buy something and find it faulty afterwards, that will be your own fault.

Auction catalogues have their own terminology. Paintings are generally attributed to a particular artist — but the very phrase "attributed to" only means "in our opinion probably a work by the artist in whole or part". There are a lot of let-out phrases. "After so-and-so" means it is just a copy of a work by so-and-so. If you are not sure what a comment means always ask.

And don't just follow the catalogue. Look in that battered cardboard box under the grand piano which has a heap of little things in it, all selling under one unspecified lot number, probably for a few pounds. Some of the best collecting finds are made in places like that.

The auctioneer Hugh Edmeades, who among other things conducts sales of pop memorabilia at Christie's, pointed out to me one danger that might be overlooked. "In those cavernous salerooms, large furniture looks small. A friend of mine bought two handsome armchairs — and could not get them through his front door. He had to sell them again."

But how much should you pay? You like the little French 18th-century red chalk drawing or the splendid wardrobe, but what are they worth? Here it is important to look at the catalogue, because that gives estimated prices such as "£300 to £360". These figures are the low and the high estimates made by the auctioneer. But the lot may go for less than the lowest estimate, or for a figure far beyond the high one. "It's not an exact science," Mr Edmeades says. "You can't tell what people are going to bid for one of Michael Jackson's gloves."

TONY WHITE

Bidding during the sale of some of Robert Maxwell's belongings at Sotheby's

All the same, the estimated prices give you an idea of what lots it would be sensible to bid for. And it is a good idea to fix in your mind, and write in the margin of the catalogue, the highest price you are prepared to pay. This is a safety device for when your enthusiasm threatens to overtake your commonsense.

Even if you eventually get what you want, your winning bid — the "hammer price", as it is called — may not be all you finally end up paying. There is often a buyer's premium, meaning that you have to pay the auctioneer from 5 to 15 per cent of the hammer price. On top of this VAT will be added to the buyer's premium — though not, in most cases, on the goods, because they will almost always be secondhand.

So, the day of the drama comes — and I do always find it dramatic. You need to register your name and details at most auctions on arrival, and then you will be given a "paddle" — a number to hold up to the auctioneer if you make a successful bid, so that he knows who you are.

Armed with the catalogue, paddle and a tinge of nervousness you take your seat, and the auctioneer comes up on to the dais. He is not there to trick anybody into buying, but he certainly wants to build up the excitement and drive people on to make higher bids. For newcomers, the speed of the whole business can be surprising. Often 100 lots go by in an hour. With your eyes glued on the marked entry in your catalogue, the first lot you would like may even be put up and sold before you have noticed.

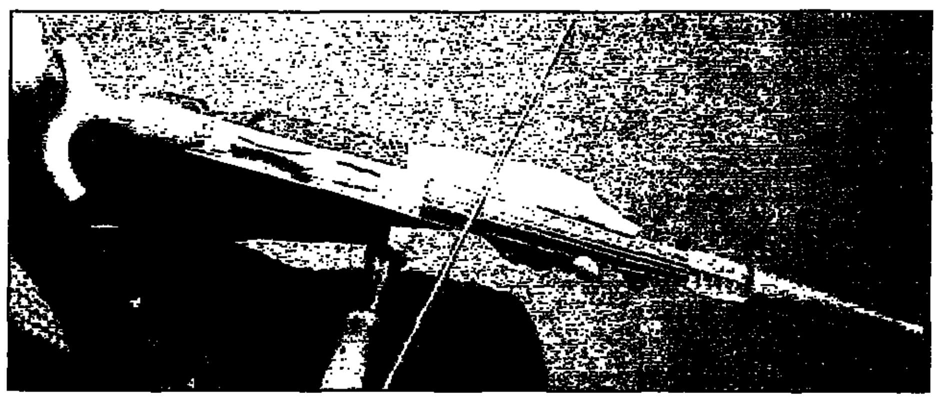
However, here is your moment. Lot 100 — your lot . . . a cautious bid is made at the back of the room, and suddenly the figures are escalating. Unless you start the bidding, you do not need to call out a figure, just raise your hand conspicuously, because the bids go up in fixed steps and the auctioneer calls them out as they are made. Perhaps two determined bidders start battling it out, and the auctioneer's eyes go from one to the other like a Centre Court umpire. Then you may not have a chance to bid. Don't panic. Bide your time, wait for one of the bidders to indicate to the auctioneer that he is dropping out, then firmly raise your hand or paddle and enter the bidding — if the price hasn't gone out of reach, of course. Or you may find yourself caught in just such a battle, and that is the time to remember your catalogue safety device. Nothing is worse than being carried away and ending up spending far more than you intended.

But in the end you have got what you wanted. The battered old wardrobe or teddy bear is yours and, after doing all your researches, you know it is a bargain. That is the great moment of an auction. All you have to do now is pay up and take it away — or you can have it delivered, which is something the auctioneer will arrange but which you will also have to pay for.

Be careful of that moment of exhilaration, though. Eric Geen, the television comedy scriptwriter, who has written a *Guide to Town and Country Auctions* (AA, £5.99), told me he was once leaving a saleroom after some successful bids when he half-heard that a table and set of chairs were going under the hammer for only £20. He spun round on his heels and made a bid — and found that he had just bought a set of doll's house furniture.

How an accident 50 years ago sparked a lifelong interest in antique walking canes

Utterly stuck on sticks



German violin cane, with a fingerboard and bow, from the 1840s, worth about £6,000

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Ted Boothroyd and his granddaughter, Cassy, with some sticks from his collection

Perhaps Ted Boothroyd should be called "the man with a millipede in his soul". How else could you describe a desire to accumulate more than a thousand walking sticks?

"I began collecting in 1938, when I had a motorcycle accident in Northampton," says Mr Boothroyd, 78. "My legs were put in calipers and I was given crutches to help me walk, but I just couldn't get on with them at all — so I went back to the surgeon and I asked him whether he had an alternative."

Mr Boothroyd was given two walking sticks. "They were made of ash — ugly, but strong," he says. "I had to give them back to the hospital when I recovered. But they got me interested in canes. They reminded me of swordsticks."

There followed more than 50 years of hunting for canes: in antique shops, flea markets and classified advertisements in *Exchange and Mart*. Mr Boothroyd acquired canes made of glass, narwhal horns and bulls' pizzles. Then there were the canes with hidden compartments: for snuff, money or even drugs. One stick in Mr Boothroyd's collection has an ivory handle, a representation of a solicitor's hand clutching a scroll, which unscrews to reveal a hidden chamber. "It is probably from the 1880s and is worth about £115," he says.

Mr Boothroyd wrote a book on the subject, *Fascinating Walking Sticks*, in 1970. It is now out of print, and has become a collector's item in its own right. "I've only got a couple of copies myself," he says, "but a man rang me recently saying he'd found a copy in a secondhand bookshop. But then he offered to sell it to me for £80."

Mr Boothroyd's book includes a chapter on his first love, swordsticks. "I was once invited on to a television show to discuss the subject, and I fought a duel with the show's host," he says. "I frightened the life out of him."

His collection includes a late 19th-century swordstick which, at the touch of a button concealed as a knot in the wood, releases a blade that is etched with the words "Peace with Honour" on one side and "Defence not Defiance" on the other. It is worth about £680. But the range of "system canes" — canes that serve a role other than as an aid to walking — goes far beyond weaponry.

Some sticks conceal optical instruments: an 1830 telescope cane, whose handle and ferrule unscrew to reveal lenses, is worth about £1,400.

Then there are musical canes. While it is easy to envisage how a shaft could become a flute, or even a handle of a harmonica, it is surprising to discover that there are also violin canes, used by 19th-century dancing masters and street musicians. Violin canes, containing a fingerboard and a bow, are extremely rare: one made during the 1840s is probably worth about £6,000.

"You can find canes with salmon spears, watches, horse measures, and even ear trumpets," Mr Boothroyd says.

But canes do not have to perform tricks to be collectable. An astonishing variety of handle designs are available, in many materials: a pewter handle from the 1850s in the shape of a woman's leg, like a can-can dancer in the middle of her act, for about £100; a toothy grinning head, made from an immature coconut in the 1860s, for £285; or perhaps a jockey, complete with cap, made from ivory in the 1880s, for about £330.

Dog head handle, c. 1860

Ducks, greyhounds, skulls — the styles are almost endless because, from the mid-19th century to the start of the First World War, walking sticks were part of everyday apparel. For Mr Boothroyd, his most fascinating cane is in malacca with a gold top. It bears the inscription: "To Cassy from Doo — Easter 1913."

"I've always been intrigued by that inscription," he says. "Was the stick an engagement present? Or a wedding present? It sounds so romantic. I'd love to hear from someone who knows something about Cassy and Doo."

The stick is now in the possession of his granddaughter — named Cassy after it.

STEPHEN JARVIS

Fact File

☐ *The Cane Collector's Chronicle*, a specialist newsletter on walking sticks, is published quarterly. Subscription £23 a year. Contact Linda Beeman, 99 Ludlam Crescent, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

☐ One of the leading specialist dealers in canes in Britain is Michael German, 38b Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BX (0171-937 2771; fax 0171-937 8566).

☐ A designer and maker of modern and reproduction style canes, who also restores and refurbishes them, is Keith Cowie Designs, Woodside, Ratley, nr Banbury, Oxon OX15 6DS (01295 670545).

THE TIMES
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SALEROOM

☐ In a grand "attic" sale this week, **Christie's** is offering pictures, furniture and works of art from Keir, the Stirlingshire seat of the Stirlings. The auction, in a marquee near Keir on Monday and Tuesday, includes two mint-condition sets of Dutch Delft plates painted with whaling scenes (£2,500 to £3,500); a regimental dirk of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (£800 to £1,200) and a multitude of easy chairs and soft furnishings, estimated from £100 upwards.

☐ **The Fine Art Society**'s spring exhibition, also starting on Monday, is a treat for English art enthusiasts, with works by Burne-Jones, Whistler and Sickert. Prices range from £450 for an attractive landscape watercolour by the Irish artist Andrew Nichol to £360,000 for "Brighton Pierrots", a painting of an open-air theatre by Sickert

☐ The **Ashmolean Museum** in Oxford demonstrates the current revival of wood engraving in a special exhibition, from Tuesday, with works from all over the world. The show includes political satire by Peter Forster and landscape scenes by Clare Hemstock. Prices range from £50 to £160.

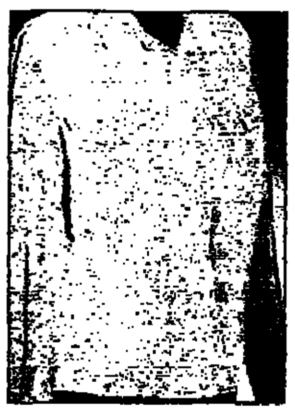
☐ The favourite records of *Desert Island Discs* creator Roy Plomley are on offer at **Phillips** on Tuesday. Early 78rpm recordings of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Duke Ellington come in lots comprising 70 to 100 discs at £80 to £150, while a letter in which the BBC turned down the aspiring presenter's initial job application in 1936 is thrown in with some 20 photographs of castaways such as Henry Cooper, Margaret Thatcher and Ralph Richardson (£150 to £200).

☐ Summer comes to **Sotheby's Sussex** on Wednesday where its paintings sale includes a mid-20th century still-life with roses and peonies by Albert Williams (£1,200 to £1,800).

☐ On Wednesday and Thursday, **Sotheby's** in London is selling some 400 treasures from Luton Hoo, the stately home in Bedfordshire. Highlights include a pair of silver-gilt ewers, which once belonged to King George I (£700,000 to £1 million), and a 26-piece toilet service made by Huguenot silversmith David Willaume (£250,000 to £350,000).

☐ A highlight at **Bonhams**'s sale in Guernsey on Thursday is a cast-iron statue of a centaur which was recently found in the undergrowth of gardens formerly surrounding the demolished Château des Roches at St Brelade's Bay, Jersey (£30,000 to £40,000).

☐ **Christie's King Street** relives the Raj on Thursday with an auction devoted to Anglo-Indian art. Watercolours of the Taj Mahal and Agra are on sale for £1,500 to £10,000 while 19th-century drawings of Indians in traditional dress are from £1,000 upwards.



John Lennon jacket for sale

☐ A tiny volume of the *Works of Horatio* once perused by the Marquise de Pompadour, mistress to Louis XV, is estimated at £900 to £1,000 at **Sotheby's** sale on Thursday. It is one of 500 volumes from library of the 5th Earl of Rosebery, Prime Minister between 1894 and 1895. The books, which are mostly French, cover all the highlights of French political, philosophical and religious thought from the 16th century to the Revolution.

☐ A recently discovered tape recording of Mick Jagger and Keith Richards performing at home with their first band in 1961 could fetch between £45,000 and £55,000 at **Christie's South Kensington** pop memorabilia on Thursday. A John Paul Gaultier bustier worn by Madonna during her "Who's that Girl" tour is £8,000 to £10,000, while a suede jacket worn by John Lennon in the photo session for the cover of the 1965 album *Rubber Soul* is £18,000 to £22,000.

☐ Discounts of up to 50 per cent can be had on works by contemporary artists Peter Howson and John Keane at the early spring sale at **Flowers East** in London from Friday. The event, "Paintings, drawings and sculpture at irresistible prices", continues over next weekend.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, (01865 3553); Bonhams Guernsey, Allez Street Auction Room, St Peter Port, Guernsey (01481 722700); Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171-839 9060); Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171-581 7611); Christie's Keir sale, at the Doune and Dunblane Showground, Keir Mains, Dunblane, Perthshire (information 01786 822350); Flowers East, 282 Richmond Road, London E8 (0171-985 3333); The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 9454); Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 493 8080); Sotheby's Sussex, Summers Place, Billingshurst, West Sussex (01403 783933).*

مكبرة من الاصل

Smockman battles the terror slugs

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Here, as they say on the BBC, is an SOS message: *Will the lady who wrote to me kindly offering to make a smock please write again as I have lost the letter.* That is the end of the SOS message. But to narrow the hunt down a bit, as several of you have been kind enough to offer to take up needle and thread in support of my desire to resurrect this traditional item of a farmer's wardrobe, the lady in question mentioned that she had a son who worked at an open-air museum. Does that help? She told me she made two kinds of smock for him: winter and summerweight. She clearly knows a thing or two about smocks.

The need to change one's smock as the seasons progress became clear a couple of weeks ago, when temperatures typical of mid July briefly intruded on an otherwise chilly May. Sweating, and still clad in the wool and corduroy that had done stout service through a depressingly wet winter, I craved something which would admit fresh air to the skin: not that I am short of summer cladding; it is simply that it was all put away somewhere safe last September and I cannot find it. Rather like the letter from the smock lady.

I blame the slugs. They are devouring everything else on this farm. We have a field of newly sown tares (or at least we did), which I sowed about six weeks ago. Despite a cool, dry spell, the plucky little seeds poked tiny green shoots reassuringly through the soil. No sooner had they shown themselves than some evil-jawed, gluttonous, slithery, murderous slug had, under cover of darkness, nipped them in the bud and brought their short, promising lives to a premature end.

Slugs are cowards. Unlike rooks or crows, they do not even have the guts to show themselves in daylight. If they did, I would be hastening to find myself a cobbler to make the largest pair of hobnailed boots ever created and I would happily march the fields all day long, trampling the enemy underfoot. Slugs! Now they have eaten the letter which provided my only hope of comfort for the coming summer.

I am discovering that there is more to smocks than just fashion, as Christine Field, of Hutton-le-Hole, North Yorkshire, has pointed out to me. She was clearing out a bookshelf when a volume enticingly entitled *Prescription for Energy* fell open at a page extolling the virtue of the smock. As I do not have the whole book, just a photocopy of the relevant couple of pages, it is difficult to get a measure of the work, but the promised prescription contains phrases such as, "String vests are a must . . ." and "the cause of this [backache] is the extraordinary lack of common sense in, mainly, men's wear". For the benefit of all poorly clad males, farmers or not, let me quote: "The smock is similar to the fisherman's canvas smock in design, but made of heavy towelling, doubled over the shoulders and down the entire length of the spine. The smock has more than the usual shoulder width and reaches to below the buttocks, being held down by a button-fastened strap of the same material as a jock-strap." Oh, hell! How am I ever going to parade around the farm like someone who has turned up at a fancy dress party clad as a surgical support? No, I think this is taking things a little far.

The lady who wrote the missing letter has the answer to my needs. She sounds reassuringly practical. A professional smock-maker, Rose Glennie, of Hampshire, did offer to make me a smock but, judging by her designs, they are of far too high a calibre and too refined a style for the tasks I have in mind. Remember, we are coming up to the smeary sheep-dagging season and it will soon be that time of year when the rusty clipper must be dragged from the shed and bathed in grease in order to cut the hay. Glennie smocks come with the most glorious and intricate of stitching, and I could not bear to, say, muck out the pigs clad in one of those. She does mention, however, that apart from her floral prints she has a plain viscose and cotton cloth with a linen-look which is suitably "dung coloured". She enclosed a pictured of a retired naval captain standing at an easel, paintbrush in hand, modelling the dung-coloured smock. I must write to ask if the jock-strap device is available as an optional extra.

Mrs Murray, of Nottingham, wrote to tell me that she made a smock 30 years ago, and has no intention of making one again. The hand-smocking took no less than 100 hours, and the man for whom it was made never wore it. So, given the labour-intensive nature of the process, the rarity of willing makers and the dire warnings about backache, you can see why I am so keen to contact my volunteer. Clearly my health is at risk if I do not have one.

If the worst comes to the worst, I can always wait until it is dark and waltz around the farm in it, to terrify the hell out of the slugs.

Why the world's geneticists are trying to save the tiny Polynesian tree snail

Snail's pace to survival

You would expect a creature on the verge of extinction to behave with extreme care: above all, to look after its young and definitely not leave them lying about in public places while it skulks off and hides, untraceable except for the debris it leaves behind. But the tree snail *Partula taeniata* seems unaware of this.

Although at first sight a tiny, insignificant-looking creature — two centimetres long and beige with a greenish tinge — it is considered important enough for scientists to have given up years of their lives to ensure that it survives. This is because its shell markings and DNA may hold the key to some of the crucial evolutionary questions of our time.

"This snail," says Paul Pearce-Kelly, curator of the Invertebrate Conservation Centre at London Zoo, "is part of an evolutionary model more elegant than Darwin's finches."

Partula taeniata is a native of Moorea, one of the Society Islands Archipelago in French Polynesia. Thirty years ago, these volcanic Pacific islands teemed with more than a 100 types of partula. The snails, which had different shell markings, had evolved in different valleys, giving each a unique identity. The islanders made necklaces out of them to sell to tourists and, from the overall character of the shells, it was simple to tell which valley each necklace came from.

Geneticists suspected that the different patterns were not as random as they seemed and were the result of natural selection. The lack of uniformity, they thought, was a contrivance of nature to make potential predators wary, because they did not look familiar. Moreover, the partulas bred between species: it was like finding a children's picture-book guide to one of the most profound conundrums of life.

Professor Bryan Clarke, former head of the Department of Genetics at Nottingham University, recalls seeing them in the late 1960s: "If you walked through the woods in a straight line, you might find at first just one highly variable species then, a few hundred metres further on, the species would seem to have split into two distinct species, with only a few intermediates; then, in another few hundred metres, the two species would seem to rejoin into one variable species again. Perhaps the two species had hybridised to form one, or perhaps the single species had split to form two. The snails were incomplete species. Several transitions were going on, and it seemed that we had caught them half way into the origin of new species."

As the snails moved about so little, field study was easy. But their days were numbered.

In 1967, giant African land snails were brought to the neighbouring island of Tahiti to be farmed for food. Some escaped, and spread through the region, probably arriving by boat on Moorea, where they became serious pests; so much so that in the mid-1970s *Euglandina rosea* snails from Florida were introduced as a biological control. Unfortunately, these proved to be the partulas' death warrant.

Eshewing the leathery giant African land snails which they were meant to eat, the Florida snails applied their predatory skills to the succulent partulas, with devastating effect. When snail experts visited Moorea in 1991, they found only a very few of the partulas still alive, and rows and rows of empty, broken shells.

STEPHEN MARKESON

As part of a survival programme, the 2cm-long tree snails have been introduced to a pandanus tree at Kew

Fortunately, a captive breeding programme was already in place involving 16 institutions worldwide, eight in Britain. The programme is co-ordinated by the Invertebrate Conservation Centre at London Zoo. When I met Mr Pearce-Kelly two years ago he was helping on a project to save field crickets, but surrounding him were labelled jars, tanks and boxes of partulas. Kept on moistened tissue paper, the snails were fed with a paste of grassmeal, trout pellets, Scots porridge oats and cuttle bone.

Vivien Frame, of Nottingham University, has been looking after a batch of *Partula taeniata* for more than ten years, and says: "The babies are small enough to fit under a fingernail, but they can climb up to the food and on to their parents' backs."

Like other snails, *Partula taeniata* is hermaphrodite, but not self-fertilising so, even though the parents are sexually indistinguishable, two are needed for them to breed. When they are nine months old, the snails are capable of reproducing. They may live as long as 18 years. "When the adults die here, they are frozen, recorded and kept," Mrs Frame says.

To save the partulas in this way was difficult enough, but everyone involved in the programme wanted to see them back in the natural environment of Moorea. First, though, they had to find out how the snails would fare in their natural habitat after being reared in captivity, so a pioneering release was made on the pandanus tree in the Palm House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, southwest London. As the tree covered an area of three square metres and was 4m high in an tropical environment, it was the obvious choice.

The project got under way the winter before last when 100 *Partula taeniata*, which had been bred at Chester Zoo and the Amphibian Breeding Centre at Marton Mere, Lancashire were brought to Kew. The snails quickly reverted to the natural diet familiar to their ancestors: the bark of the leaf stalks of hibiscus. "They don't take the living plant," Mr Pearce-Kelly says. "They help recycle dead material."

At this stage of the project there was a two-week round-the-clock vigil. Mr Pearce-Kelly and five colleagues took turns to monitor and record every snail's movements. Tabs were stuck to the adults' shells to help keep track of them at night. "This venture with Kew shows the valuable working relationship that can exist between institutions that are animal orientated and plant related," Mr Pearce-Kelly says.

Last year, in the second stage of the project, partula snails, including some *taeniata*, were taken to Moorea. There, an area of forest was cleared of all predator snails and their eggs. Then a reservation was set up with a snail-proof fence (see left). "At only 20m by 20m square it must be the world's smallest wildlife reserve," he says.

Meanwhile, the snails in the Palm House at Kew are in hiding. "We know they are there," Mr Pearce-Kelly says, "because from time to time someone sees a youngster or partly nibbled leaf stalk bark, but quite where the adults are we are not sure. It is such a complex environment."

As for the ones on Moorea, those too are now out of sight, except for the young ones. This probably indicates that the partulas are adapting well to their environment: it seems to show that, when it comes to taking up a good opportunity, they will do it at something far faster than at snail's pace.

JESSICA GORST-WILLIAMS

PAUL PEARCE-KELLY

An area of forest on Moorea is cleared to make a reserve for partula snails

Repelling killer snails

HOW the threatened species of tree snail *(Partula taeniata)* was protected against the predator Florida snail *(Euglandina rosea)* on the Pacific island of Moorea.

☐ First, an area of forest was cleared of predator snails, removing all leaf litter to ensure that no eggs were left.

☐ Then, a 6ft deep circle of open ground was created around the reserved area (the predator snails hate open spaces). Although the reserved area needed foliage, no branches were allowed to extend beyond the protected area.

☐ The protected area was surrounded with a trough containing an anti-snail chemical (calcium chloride).

☐ Lengths of corrugated sheeting were placed around the perimeter of the open ground and secured to the trough.

☐ Finally, at the top of the sheeting, a two-wire electrice fence was set up, powered by a car battery.

Goldfinches fly in for a summer of song

Feather Report

ABOUT THE last small birds to start nesting in this country are the goldfinches. This is because they like to feed their young on mashed-up thistle seeds, and the thistles will not be scattering their down much before the beginning of June.

At the moment, the goldfinches are flying about in pairs, looking for nest sites. They are always a brilliant sight. As they lilt and dip through the air, their gold-barred wings flash in the sun. The very moment they settle, they seem poised to go again, but for an instant you may get a clear view of their red, white and black heads, and if one turns to face you, you can see the buff patches on either side of the white chest.

The birds' courtship display — also to be seen now — makes full use of their colours. They crouch with wings spread to reveal all their gold feathers, and the red "blaze' on their forehead is puffed up. In this posture, they swing from side to side.

There is a courtship flight — the "moth" flight — in which the pair fly around with shallow wing beats. The males also perform a "butterfly" routine, in which they fly around singing, with slow, deep wing beats, their feathers all fluffed out.

Goldfinches are not very territorial. They defend a small area around the apple or cherry tree where they will make their nest, but it has been calculated that you could get 30 pairs of goldfinches into the average chaffinch territory. Not that you are likely to find quite so many pairs nesting side by side in reality.

The neat but deep nest of moss and roots and lichen, bound together with spiders' webs and well-lined with down and hair, is usually built at the end of a swaying branch. There are four to six red-speckled eggs, and the female goldfinch sits on them day and night for about 12 days. She occasionally comes off for a little exercise, and to bathe, but she is generally fed on the nest by the male, and gets very excited, shivering her wings and begging, when he arrives with food.

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

Goldfinches are about to nest

The incubation period is the only time of year when these lively, restless birds seem to relax. For long periods, the male will sit on a conspicuous twig high in a lime or ash tree, and sing continuously. This is a characteristic sight of early June. His song is not exactly beautiful, but it is utterly delightful.

All year round, goldfinches utter a stream of tinkling, bell-like notes as they fly. The song is a richer version of these, with plummy notes among the light ripples.

After that, it is hard work again for both sexes. They share the task of feeding the young, usually mixing in a few insects with the seeds. The fledglings leave the nest after a fortnight. They have the gold-striped wings of their parents but their heads and bodies are grey, and they are called "grey pates".

A second, even a third brood, follows. By August, the countryside will be full of goldfinch families, flocking not only to the thistle tops but coming down to our lawns and roadside verges to pluck at the dandelion clocks and the ragwort seeds.

It used to be thought that goldfinches were resident birds, but it is now known that most of them go south in autumn. A few will linger in Britain, brightening the winter days, but by January the rest will be enjoying the luxurious seed-fare of the Mediterranean countries.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — watch for young robins with their brown, cream-spotted plumage. Twitchers — greater yellowlegs, Breydon Water, Norfolk: red-rumped swallow, Bramford, Suffolk: Alpine swift, Prawle, Devon. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

THE TIMES/NPI

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SPECIAL EVENTS

NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN
SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

CARLISLE CASTLE, Carlisle, Cumbria, is the venue for Music of the Jacobites and Georgians on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18, as part of Carlisle's 250th Anniversary Commemorations of the Jacobite Rising of 1745. The music is performed on copies of instruments from the mid-18th century and there will be a comprehensive explanation of the period's music techniques. The medieval castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was once imprisoned, has a long history of warfare and feuding.

There is also a new exhibition of the Jacobite Rising, when Bonnie Prince Charlie took the castle in 1745. In addition the castle houses the Museum of the King's Own Border Regiment.

Admission: adult £3.00; children £1.50; OAPs £2.25.

Performances: 2pm & 3.30pm

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01228 591922

BELSAY HALL, Belsay, Northumberland, is hosting the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens Annual Plant Sale from 10am to 6pm on Sunday, June 11.

A great day out for plant lovers - a chance to see Belsay's 30 acre estate, including landscaped gardens, and to buy a range of plants propagated from private gardens all over the north-east.

Belsay Hall, completed in 1815, is one of the most important neoclassical houses in Britain with a well-preserved 14th century castle and a ruined 17th century mansion.

Admission: adults £3.00: children £1.50; OAPs £2.25.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01661 881636

THE MEDIEVAL MERCHANT'S HOUSE, Southampton, Hampshire, is the venue for 'Life in a Medieval Household', from noon to 5.30pm on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18. Meet a merchant of the late 15th century as he makes preparations for the long pilgrimage he is about to undertake. This faithfully restored 13th century town house was originally built as a shop and home for wine merchant John Fortin.

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Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 01703 221503

Over the summer months the NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign will offer Times/NPI Passport holders the opportunity to visit many of Britain's most beautiful historic properties at special rates.

To launch this magnificent celebration of Britain's heritage, English Heritage is extending its special 'kids go free' weekend on June 3/4 to all Passport holders. This will entitle every Passport holder to free entry to all English Heritage properties. All you need to do to take advantage of the special offers and concessions is to show your Passport Card.

The NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign, sponsored by pensions specialist NPI, in association with *The Times*, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic properties.

If you have collected a minimum of five tokens, that appeared daily in *The Times* until Friday, May 12, send them with your name, address and telephone number, enclosing a first-class stamp, to *The Times*/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6YU, in order to receive your Times/NPI Passport.

If you missed the tokens but would still like a copy of *The Times*/NPI Passport, send a cheque for £1.95, made payable to Spero Communications Ltd, to the address above.

The Medieval Merchant's House: from entrance

ADVERTISEMENT

Hoard of Vintage British Banknotes unearthed in old Country House...

With the VE day celebrations still fresh in everyone's mind, a recent discovery harks back to those nostalgic times. From under the floorboards of an old country house comes a group of original old Green Britannia £1 banknotes. It was through the dark days of World War II and on through the days of rationing into the early 50's that this design of One Pound note was in circulation.

Just one of these notes back then would have got you a Fred & Ginger night at the pictures, a couple of light ales, a fish & chip supper and change! These notes date from the time when Great Britain actually felt great.

Less than 800 of these notes were actually unearthed and they are in remarkably well preserved condition. Banknote collecting is one of the world's fastest growing hobbies, a couple of these 'old favourites' would make an ideal start. I can't see myself becoming an avid collector but having a couple of these framed on the wall of my study will certainly let me catch up on the memories.

I've applied for two and intend having them framed to show front and back, at under a 'tenner' each they seem like excellent value to me and I am sure they will sell out fast. Genuine, beautifully preserved British banknotes are going to be popular with collectors. The company that is distributing them has sent with compliments the actual note pictured above to H.M. The Queen Mother at Clarence House. A spokesman for Gold & Silver Bureau said, 'The Queen Mum captured the nations heart on VE day and we are sure she will treasure one of these historic notes from the time she remembers so well.'

You should try your luck too, at only £9.95 each and less than 800 available, you'll have to hurry. You can apply in writing stating the number you would like, along with your name, address and postcode to The Gold and Silver Bureau located at 3 Sevenways, Ilford, IG2-6XH. If you are lucky enough to be allocated any, it will have been well worth the effort.

If you want to apply over the phone and don't mind suffering a few engaged tones, call them on Freephone (0800) 614686, even on a Sunday, and you may find out instantly whether you will be successful in obtaining any. Don't send any payment initially, you will be notified if you are one of the fortunate few whose application has been successful.

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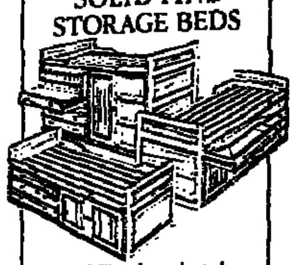

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A new book tells how every UK citizen can collect their share of the £68 thousand million that will be handed out this year by the Government. The book explains how to collect social security before retirement, small business loans, income supplements, education benefits, farm loans and unemployment job training. Here are just a few facts covered:

- How 4,820,000 people collect monthly benefits from one scheme alone.
- How to qualify for disability pensions (more than 970,000 collecting but thousands more eligible).
- How to know when to quit work and start collecting monthly retirement benefits.
- How to collect unemployment benefits even if you quit your job or were fired.
- How to get well-paid Government jobs.
- How to get free cash to start your own business. (It's simple and the book tells you exactly how to do it.)
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- How to collect £3,600 or much more a year to attend college.
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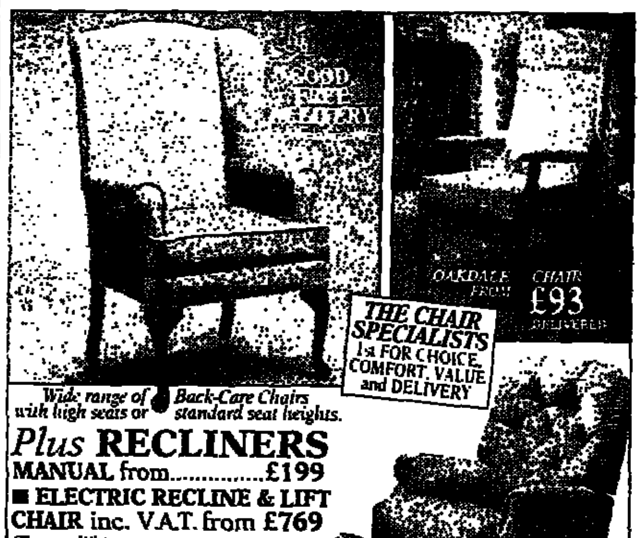

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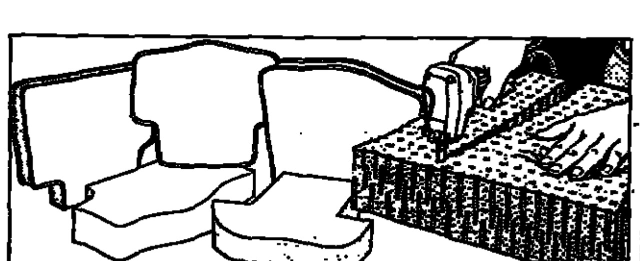

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Bad weather can put a dampener on the best-planned holiday — but pack a game and there will never be a dull moment

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Suitcase and accessories from a selection at Mulberry, 11-12 Gees Court, London W1 (0171-493 2546)

Pack a game in your suitcase when you take a break this year and it could be the companion you remember most fondly when you come back. Indoor games have been upstaging more costly pursuits and blotting out bad weather since before Roman times.

Holiday games should be lightweight to carry, but heavyweight if called on to lift jaded spirits; simple to understand but not so enthralling they overshadow all other possible diversions. They should offer a comfortable blend of luck and exasperation and be able to stand alone without props. Fitting the bill are some newcomers as well as tried and tested old friends.

☐ **Pass the Pigs:** from three years up, two or more players. 100g. MB Games. About £5.99 from Toys R Us, Woolworths, Argos and Index.

Game of chance with two rubber pigs as dice. The funny positions they fall in when thrown are described in pig jargon. For example, nose down and it's a "snouter" earning ten points if one pig falls in that position, 40 points for two. The best score after ten throws wins.

☐ **Butthead:** from three years up, singles, pairs and teams. 140g. Vizi Limited. About £9.99 from Harrods, Hamleys, House of Fraser and theme parks.

Players wear bonnets decorated with sections each marked with a different score and throw soft balls at one another. Points scored depending on where the ball lands and sticks to the bonnet. Several different games. Two bonnets and three balls provided in easy-to-carry plastic bag.

☐ **Springboard games:** from three years up, two or more players depending on game. 140g. Lagoon Games. Each separate game £4.99 from Boots, John Lewis, House of Fraser and other major outlets.

Chess and draughts on either side of one board. Alternatively, Ludo; Snakes and Ladders; or Chinese Chequers — old games designed with new flair with foam pieces on washable rigid polyester boards that fit into pouches with handles. Perfect for the beach as well as rainy afternoons.

☐ **Frustration:** from five years up, two to four players. Travel version 120g. MB Games. About £5.99 from W. H. Smiths, John Lewis and other retail outlets.

Race game of chance and skill. Players turn a dice by pressing a "pop-O-matic" in the centre of a plastic board and then decide which one of their four pegs to move towards "home". A peg landing on an occupied space despatches the occupant back to start.

☐ **Travel Guess Who?:** from six years up, minimum of two players. 150g. MB Games. About £5.99 from Toys R Us, Woolworths, Argos, Index and leading stores.

Each player selects a card showing one of the 20 faces (with distinguishing features such as beards or red hair) in an identity parade set up in front of both players. Players take turns to ask probing questions. Whoever guesses who is on their opponent's card first wins. Family game requiring more skill than meets the eye.

☐ **Travel Scrabble:** from six years up, two to four players. 440g. Spear's Games. About £12.99 nationwide. Junior version for five to *ten year-olds* not so widely available but sells for about £8.

Probably needs no introduction. Separate letters chosen blind are used to make up words, maximising point scores by skilful use of value-added squares on the board. Highest score wins. Travel version is in green plastic case, but pencil, paper (and dictionary) are not included. Smaller version of grown-up board for seven to tens.

☐ **Yahtzee:** from eight years up. Any number of players. Travel version 150g. MB Games. About £4.99. W. H. Smiths, John Lewis and other major stores.

Dice game. Roll five dice. Add up score and try to match it to one of 13 number options on a printed scorepad during 13 rounds of play.

☐ **5 Alive:** from eight years up, two to six players. 260g. Waddingtons. From £3.99. Allders, Woolworths and other major stores.

An easy-to-learn card game of skill and bluff. Each player has five lives represented by five stand-up plastic figures. Each player is dealt a hand of cards, some with numbers and others conferring powers such as miss a turn. Players take turns to put one of their cards on the table, replenishing from the pack. The object is to avoid playing the card that takes the total already on the table over 21. Do that and one of your plastic figures goes down. Player losing least number of lives wins.

☐ **Travel Cluedo:** from eight years up, two to six players. 210g. Waddingtons. About £4.99 from Allders, W. H. Smiths, Toys R Us, Woolworths and other stores.

Seasoned who-done-it game. Cards depicting murderer, murder weapon and scene of crime are chosen at random from the pack and placed, still face down, in an envelope at start of game. The rest of the pack depicting other suspects, weapons and murder scenes is shared between the players. The object of the game is to work out by process of elimination what cards are in the envelope by quizzing fellow players to try to find out what cards they hold.

☐ **Top Trumps:** from eight years up, any number of players. 100g. Waddingtons. About £1.99 from W. H. Smiths, Woolworths, Toys R Us and other major stores.

Pocket-sized hardy annual that is educational as well as fun. Each game has cards with facts and figures about one subject. This year frogs, spiders and snakes are popular. Cards are dealt face down. Players turn over their top card and announce one fact about its subject — it could be the weight, slime factor, lifespan — from the information written on the card. The others vie to outdo it with something weightier, slimier etc on their top card. The highest scorer takes the other cards. First to gain all the cards wins.

☐ **MindTrap:** from 12 years up, two players or teams. 1kg 250g. Spear's Games. About £19.99. From W. H. Smiths, Woolworths, Harrods and other stores.

The object is to race opponents to the finish of a route on a printed piece of paper by correctly answering lateral thinking questions, such as "how far can a dog run into the woods?" Answer: halfway. (After the halfway point it will be running out of the woods.) A correct answer wins a throw of the dice (showing 0 to three only) and moves accordingly. You can choose to play a long or short route depending on time available for the game.

☐ **Today's the Day:** from 14 years up, two players or teams. 850g. Spear's Games. About £17.99 from W. H. Smiths, Harrods, Hamleys and other major outlets.

Quiz game. Players' pieces move one pace along a question mark-shaped track when they correctly answer a question based on days of the year. Example: June 24. Which boxer known as "The Manassa Mauler" was born on that date in 1895? Answer: Jack Dempsey.

☐ **Marbles Games:** for anyone who can roll a marble and won't eat it. 210g. House of Marbles. About £2.99, from Paperchase, Harrods, Hamleys and independent gift shops countrywide.

Ten game descriptions with technique instructions. Pack includes plastic arcade.

☐ **Jigsaws:** try the new mystery jigsaws that do not have a picture to follow. Instead the puzzle is pieced together from a written description of a crime. The completed picture shows the scene found by the police with the clues that led them to a suspect. A good 1,000 piece crime puzzle is *A Classic Case of Murder* from BV Leisure (about £10.95). From Jigsaw World, John Lewis and the Reject Shop (see also below).

The perfect escort for a favourite jigsaw is a Jigroll. Jigsaw pieces are assembled on a sheet of felt with straps and a large tube which enable it to travel partly made up or all in one piece. A Jigroll for 500 to 1,000 piece puzzles with a working area of 36in by 24in costs from £20.

Available from branches of Jigsaw World or direct from Jigroll, Barton, Cambridge CB3 7BR.

JESSICA GORST-WILLIAMS

A very puzzling business

Egyptian hieroglyphs (15in x 6in, 290 pieces, £29.50)

Puzzleplex makes jigsaws to order from a work of art or family photograph, in any shape you want, or you can design your own

Van Gogh jigsaw (10in x12in, 480 pieces, £48)

During childhood holidays on my grandmother's Yorkshire farm, we used to do endless jigsaws on rainy days and winter evenings. As I grew up, I went through phases of obsessional puzzling, recently rekindled when I heard about the Stocken family.

Enid Stocken cut her first jigsaws in 1915 to raise money for soldiers wounded in the Great War and continued until her death in 1983. Her son, Peter, took up puzzle-cutting full-time in 1972, but has now moved on to develop his own three-dimensional puzzles. His children, Jonathan, Simon and Claudia, in turn learnt cutting at an early age and have now set up their own company, Puzzleplex.

Puzzleplex has a stock list encompassing the work of artists from Constable to Kandinsky, costing from £17.50 for Renoir's *Mme Monet with her Son* (9in x 7in, 175 pieces) to £235 for the same artist's *Luncheon at the Boating Party* (23in x 31in, 2,350 pieces). Many of the puzzles include pieces cut in specific shapes, such as golfers, dinosaurs, umbrellas and cats, and composite shapes such as horses with riders.

The umbrella-festooned Wimbledon jigsaw (13in x 18in, 647, £91)

Because all the puzzles are cut individually, you can choose the size, shape and level of difficulty, the number of special and composite pieces and their shapes. You can also have a puzzle made from your own photo negative (from £35 for a 10in x 8in jigsaw of at least 240 pieces) or print (add £3.50). Puzzles are generally delivered within a fortnight but, in an emergency, the Stockens have been known to make one in three days (commissioned jigsaws cost 13p per piece).

The Stockens delight in creating ever more fiendish tests of their clients' skill — Peter Stocken was once cutting for a particularly skilled regular and added extra pieces to further tax him which, when assembled, read "Ho! Ho!". You can even have a jigsaw with wavy edges or, more difficult still, a seemingly straight-edged puzzle which in fact has elements extending beyond the border. If you want to give a jigsaw as a present, you can include a personal message in the form of pieces cut in letter shapes (maximum 15 message letters per 100 pieces, add 35p per letter).

Many regular customers ask the Stockens to choose their jigsaws for them and, since there are no pictures on the boxes, they have no idea what they are assembling until it begins to take shape.

The company also makes puzzles for children (three to six-years, about 20 pieces, £7.50; seven to 11 years about 50 pieces, £9.50) with pieces cut to form their first names at no extra cost. For collectors, try Peter Stocken's three-dimensional puzzles in a choice of English and foreign hardwoods (196 designs, £39-£142). So send for their lists and see what takes your fancy, or dig out your photo albums and start plotting. I am already gathering embarrassing and sentimental photographs to turn into collage puzzles for presents. Rainy afternoons and winter evenings could be a lot less dull than you had expected.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

● *Puzzleplex, Stubbs Walden, Doncaster DN6 9BU (01302 700997). All prices include P&P within EC countries.*

THE TIMES
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The rug measures 145cm x 160cm and is available in a pink or green checked design. It costs just £24.95 inc. p&p.

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Murder sizzles on the Aga

■ DARKENING ECHOES
By Carol Smith
Little, Brown, £15.99

■ RUDDLEMOOR
By E. V. Thompson
Headline, £16.99

DARKENING Echoes is certainly ambitious. The jacket bears the image of a knife dripping with blood, but the first paragraph carries an Aga name-check. The main characters just adore to potter in Bond Street and nibble in San Lorenzo, yet they are all in danger of a terrible and untimely end. Sex, shopping, stoves *and* serial killers? Carol Smith obviously set out to write a first novel that was all things to all women. And she has, more or less, succeeded.

Smith starts, as one does, with five women, brought together here not through dreary college or work but by their nether regions. They are thrown together in the same gynaecology ward of a London hospital, and by the time they are discharged, a sisterhood has emerged.

Good old Beth (fave shop: Sainsbury's) is like a mother to them all, but also the lover of Vivienne's husband. Vivienne (fave shop: Harrods) is rich, bored and miserable. Easy-going Australian Sally (whose nether regions could do with a rest) keeps them laughing. But then one dies and another is attacked, and we start to get nervous ...

Smith's story sashays happily from Notting Hill to The Boltons, with the odd foray into the outback. Occasionally it also drifts across the boundaries of good taste. (When Catherine, dying from a massive ovarian tumour, is examined by a consultant who was once her lover, it makes her "want to cry out in happiness".) Otherwise, this is a witty, hugely enjoyable and confident debut.

E. V. Thompson is more of the old school. *Ruddlemoor*, his twentieth novel, is another of his 19th-century sagas about the Retallick family of Cornwall. The big news is that Josh and Miriam have forsaken the copper-mining industry for a china clay works. From there, they have to deal with the comings, goings and killings in the Boer War, the rise of trade unionism and the lives and loves of their very extended family.

Ruddlemoor is a lot more historical than romance; those who have come this far with the Retallicks' saga will not be disappointed.

GILL HORNBY

A death greatly exaggerated

The novel has been pronounced dead, again, but it just won't lie down

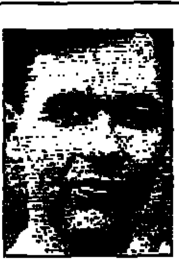
Oh dear, the novel is dead again. How many post mortems on this particular corpse have been conducted in the *Times Literary Supplement*? And how often has the cadaver been miraculously restored to critical respectability, even as the lamentations still echo through the senior common rooms? This time, though, the obituarist is one of the most successful novelists of our day: Jeanette Winterson.

In *Art Objects: Essays on Ecstasy and Effrontery* (Cape, £9.99), published next week, she unveils her ambition: "What I am trying to do in my work is to make a form that answers to 21st-century needs. A form that is not 'a poem' as we usually understand the term, and not 'a novel' as the term is defined by its own genesis. I do not write novels. The novel form is finished."

This typically trenchant verdict rests on an argument about language. Unfortunately, it has to be extricated from Winterson's digressions about the pleasures of buying contemporary art and rare first editions, or her dislike of central heating and male voice choirs. She also writes cogently about why sexuality is not a literary category, and why she does not want to confine herself to a lesbian ghetto. But her main point is that present-day writers should ignore postwar realism and pick up where Gertrude Stein, Virginia Woolf, T. S. Eliot and other Modernists left off.

For her, only the experimental novel now has any validity at all. It must abandon narrative in favour of "building a structure that is bonded by language". (She must know, but does not say, that others long before her — not only Joyce and Woolf, but also Céline and Broch, to name a few — abandoned conventional narrative. Oddly, Winterson hardly ever mentions foreigners.) Implying that a novel only counts as experimental when it ceases to be a novel at all, she prefers to call her own works "fictions". Winterson believes that her view of literary fiction as the exclusive property of experimental writers is shared by the "new generation" for whom she writes: "They do not care for maundering, middle-class, middle-aged elegies."

Presumably it is the elegiac form to which those who still call themselves novelists resort that chiefly offends Winterson (she is the wrong side of 35, and her lifestyle must surely make her middle class by now). Unlike them, she uses "language that sounds as though it is being made, made now, and not out of the banality of television speak, that ubiquitous Esperanto, but out of stubborn desire to express exactly that which resists expression and exactitude". But her aggressive appropriation of language excludes not only Iris Murdoch and Anita Brookner, but Conrad and Trollope: all mere storytellers, using language as a means rather than an end.



DANIEL JOHNSON

Such hubris invites a close reading of Winterson's own book. Here is a sample of her prose: "The pressures on young writers to produce to order and to produce more of the same, if they have had a success, is now at overload, and the media act viciously in either ignoring or pillorying any voice that is not their kind of journalese." Leaving aside the banality of the thought and the execrable grammar and syntax, one notes the clichés ("produce to order", "at overload"), the careless use of "viciously" to qualify "ignoring", the mismatch of "voice" and "journalese". Such sentences are legion in *Art Objects*. I cannot believe that her publishers are now too much in awe of Winterson to correct her. So why don't they?

In an aside, Winterson dismisses business as "not interested in the arts ... except for tax purposes, advertising lines and conspicuous decoration". That seems a little hard on a firm such as Booker plc, which not only pays for the eponymous British and Commonwealth literary prize, but also for a similar award in Russia. That is as disinterested as patronage ever gets.

This year the favourites for our own Booker Prize are, as it happens, mostly written by (and in some cases about) middle-aged elegists: Martin Amis, David Lodge, Timothy Mo, Robertson Davies, Victoria Glendinning, Adam Thorpe, Hanif Kureishi and Kazuo Ishiguro. Novels by Anita Brookner and Salman Rushdie (both middle-aged and middle-class, but one hopes not unduly maundering or elegiac) are among the many still to come.

The judges are chaired by the Conservative MP and former education minister George Walden, an erudite polyglot. They include two journalists, Kate Kellaway and Peter Kemp, and two writers, Ruth Rendell and Adam Mars-Jones: an unusually catholic jury.

These are early days, but my impression is that the judges consider several of the favourites to be slightly off form and that younger writers are in with a chance. I commend to them two works by writers who also review for *The Times*: Tibor Fischer's *The Thought Gang* and Rachel Cusk's forthcoming *The Temporary*. The two novels that so far best satisfy the Winterson criterion of formal experimentation are probably Adam Thorpe's *Still* and Ishiguro's *The Unconsoled*. But both have had a mixed reception, and though that ought not to influence the jury, it usually does.

Were I a betting man, however, my money would be on Amis Jr. Almost everything that has been said against *The Information* is true; but it is the only novel so far this year on which everybody has an opinion, whether they have read it (all of it) or not. One has to admire a man whose work can refute, by its sheer literary virtuosity, Winterson's breathtaking assumption that, because she has finished with the novel, therefore the novel as a form is also finished. Not as long as there are writers who, like Amis, genuinely listen to the language, and do not just hold forth about it.

Fate writes the headlines

Ronald Brownstein on a gripping thriller set in the fetid moral swampland of America's deep South

IN Pete Dexter's fine new novel, events of great horror are portrayed with equanimity, as if they are equally inevitable and unknowable. In *The Paperboy*, as in Dexter's triumphant *Paris Trout*, only the truly evil have the luxury of moral certitude.

It is the murder of one such figure that sets the new book in motion. Thurmond Call, the sheriff of rural Moat County in northern Florida, meets his demise on page one on a sultry morning in 1965.

Call's mistake was stomping to death a drunken white man: Jerome Van Wetter. Van Wetter belonged to a backwoods clan bound by intermarriage and poverty, and a violent "cousin once or twice removed", Hillary Van Wetter, was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder.

Four years later, an investigative reporting team from a Miami newspaper arrives in Moat County, suspicious that Van Wetter was wrongfully convicted. With them is Charlotte Bless, a sexually magnetic, middle-aged postal worker from New Orleans, who is so convinced of Van Wetter's innocence that she has accumulated 41 boxes of "evidence" with which she has lured the two reporters to the case.

■ THE PAPERBOY
By Pete Dexter
Viking, £15

What follows is a collision between the worlds of William Faulkner and Woodward and Bernstein, a zesty brew of ambition, lust and deception all captured in Dexter's lean and precise prose. Along the way, he finds time to lament the changes in journalism that remade American newspapers through the 1960s and 1970s. In the days of Ben Hecht and *The Front Page*, reporters were defiantly blue-collar. The young reporters from the *Miami Times* are something else.

Dexter: lean, precise prose

Ascetic and veiled, Ward James actually straddles the old world and new: he has a college degree, but is the son of the editor of the *Moat County Tribune*, and believes that the purpose of journalism is to accumulate enough facts to construct the truth. His partner, Yardley Acheman, is an indifferent reporter and talented writer, who believes that the purpose of journalism is to find the story behind the story, even if that means imposing a clarity unwarranted by events. Acheman is the advance guard of the army of stylists and analysts who would come to occupy the prestige positions at most American newspapers by the 1990s.

Dexter, a former newspaperman whose heart is clearly with the old school, lands some solid blows on the new generation, but he has larger ambitions here. He maps the infinite capacity of humankind for self-deception, and the dangers of looking too closely into the corners hidden in any life, even one's own.

The power of truth is the power to instruct. But the protagonists in *The Paperboy* seem beyond instruction. They follow a path bred in the bone. In this gripping and troubling novel, the future often appears as unalterable as the past.

Monkey business: Charlton Heston (left) on the set of *Planet of the Apes*, from *Magnum Cinema: photographs of 50 years of movie-making* (Phaidon Press, £39.99)

Tourists, bloody tourists

■ PRESERVE OR DESTROY: Tourism and the Environment
By Jonathan Croal
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, £6.95

BEFORE the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989, about 250,000 Czechs a year managed to prise permits from the system to enable them to leave the country. In the year after the revolution, the figure went up to eight million. That is a measure of the desire to travel.

According to the World Tourism Organisation, quoted by Jonathan Croal, 500 million people crossed their national frontiers in 1993. Yet eight out of ten came from only 20 countries, and the total represents just 8 per cent of the world's population. That indicates the infancy of travel.

The crucial conundrum of Croall's book is how to reconcile these factors. He does well in defining the theory, less so in his selection of cases or in finding solutions. It would be instructive to know about some of the advanced science that now exists to determine an area's capacity for tourists. It would also be helpful to have a fuller assessment of the economic advantages claimed for tourism.

Part of the trouble is that his detailed case studies are drawn entirely from the British Isles. They are interesting as far as they go, and the descriptions benefit from personal experience. But the examples inevitably, in their nature, scale and similarity, have little relevance to the much greater problems of mass tourism in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, India and the Far East. Some of these areas are touched on, but they deserve closer attention.

One could quibble about minor inaccuracies — AITO stands for the Association of Independent, not International, Tour Operators; *Dr* Hugh Somerville is Head of Environment at British Airways and does not just "work in the environmental branch". One questions some of the judgments. Are Center Parcs really "not what sustainable tourism is about"? Is not eco-tourism potentially even more damaging than mass packages?

Visitors in Bournemouth: too many already?

This is a good primer if a mite simplistic. The Tarka Project in Devon is not much help, say, to the plight of the Windward Islands which must decide how much tourism is a proper substitute for their collapsing banana industry.

PETER HUGHES

Travel, page 23

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Le Carré's latest, Wilkie Collins's classic and Pratchett's ungrateful dead

Spies, alibis and audiotape

AUDIO BOOKS

■ OUR GAME
Written and read by John le Carré
Hodder Headline, £9.99
(four tapes, six hours)

THE book is already a bestseller on both sides of the Atlantic. This reading by le Carré condenses the 300 pages and no joins are apparent.

His delivery improves with each book; indeed within this, his fifteenth volume, he gets better during the six hours. The voice of his hero Tim Cranmer, the prematurely retired spy, starts out directionless and rather effeminate, but by the end he has become driven, determined, oozing testosterone. Le Carré's inside knowledge of the characters works to his advantage. Authors are often over-awed by their own words but le Carré has mastered this skill too.

■ THE WOMAN IN WHITE
By Wilkie Collins, read by Nigel Anthony and Susan Jameson
Penguin Classics, £9.99
(four tapes, five hours and 45 minutes)

A SURE-FOOTED production of this early suspense novel, which thrills from the first strange encounter on a moonlit road between the hero, Walter Hartright, and the woman in white. The two voices cleverly counterpoint the unravelling of the mystery. A timeless jigsaw puzzle.

■ THE TWISTED PLAYGROUND
Written and read by Bryan Forbes
Reed Audio, £7.99
(two tapes, two hours)

HERE is a thriller that would have been better read by an actor. I know Forbes played very British seamen in numerous old films before advancing into management and scriptwriting, but he should have handed his suspense story to someone else to read. After a ponderous start, this tale eventually gets going against a violent background of the trade in international pornography. Forbes's flattish voice and the slow start will mean that only the brave will make the journey — a pity because it turns into an exciting thriller.

■ LAND GIRLS
By Angela Huth, read by Anna Massey
Reed Audio, £7.99
(two tapes, three hours)

PERFECT holiday listening about three wartime land girls who share an attic as they work on a farm in the West Country. Prue, Stella and Agatha are from entirely different backgrounds but they build up a close, lifelong friendship as a result of their experiences of life and love on the farm. A primly enunciated reading from Anna Massey.

■ JOHNNY AND THE DEAD
By Terry Pratchett, read by Tony Robinson
Corgi Audio, £7.99
(two tapes, three hours)

A BIZARRE children's tale in which the dead rebel when their cemetery is threatened with a takeover by a building developer. Only 12-year-old Johnny Maxwell can see the revolting dead and he helps them to resist the bulldozers. A cast of dead characters emerge happily, still bearing all their earthly foibles. Tony Robinson, best known as Baldrick in *Blackadder*, has a constantly curious voice which helps sustain the story through to its upbeat ending.

RUSSELL TWISK

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	OUR GAME **John le Carré** *(Hodder & Stoughton)*	£16.99	2	2
2	THE SEVENTH SCROLL **Wilbur Smith** *(Macmillan)*	£15.99	1	5
3	THE LAST HUMAN **Grant Haylor** *(Viking)*	£14.99	4	2
4	FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS **Graham Hancock** *(Heinemann)*	£16.99	3	5
5	STAR WARS 7: CHILDREN OF THE JEDI **Barbara Hanbly** *(Bantam)*	£10.99	0	1
6	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Gollancz)*	£14.99	10	6
7	THERAPY **David Lodge** *(Secker & Warburg)*	£15	0	1
8	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£16.99	6	15
9	TAKE IT LIKE A MAN **Boy George** *(Sidgwick & Jackson)*	£14.99	5	2
10	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Cape)*	£18.99	7	11

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	SOUL MUSIC **Terry Pratchett** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	3	2
2	THE CHAMBER **John Grisham** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	1	6
3	A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME **Stephen Hawking** *(Bantam)*	£6.99	4	6
4	ORIGINAL SIN **P. D. James** *(Faber)*	£8.99	2	4
5	BRIDGE ACROSS MY SORROWS **Christina Noble** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	0	1
6	TOM CLANCY'S OP CENTRE **Tom Clancy** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	7	6
7	STAR WARS 5: COURTSHIP OF LEIA **Dave Wolverton** *(Bantam)*	£4.99	0	1
8	EVERVILLE **Clive Barker** *(HarperCollins)*	£5.99	8	3
9	NOTHING LASTS FOR EVER **Sidney Sheldon** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	13	6
10	SHADOW OF A DARK QUEEN **Raymond Feist** *(HarperCollins)*	£4.99	6	3

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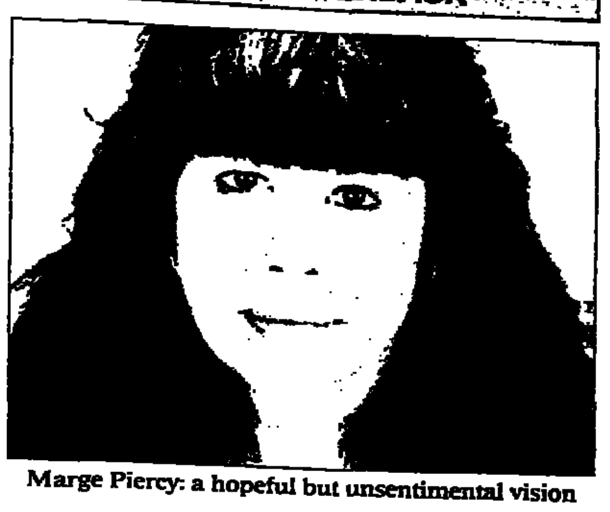
NEW IN PAPERBACK



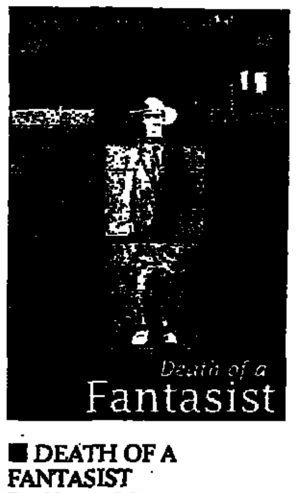
Marge Piercy: a hopeful but unsentimental vision

■ THE LONGINGS OF WOMEN
By Marge Piercy
Penguin, £5.99

MARY is a cleaner, who cleans for Leila who is a university lecturer, who is writing a book about Becky. Becky is in prison, charged with murdering her husband. Three very different American women, of different ages and backgrounds, but Piercy's observant novel reveals them as sisters under the skin. Each of them is struggling with disillusion and trying, in her own way, to take control of her life.

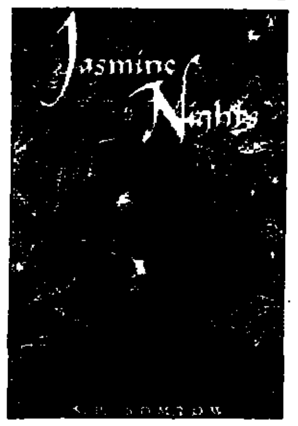
In contrast to their weak, self-regarding men, Piercy's women are strong, interesting and resourceful. Leila's husband is a plausible, insecure, chronically unfaithful theatre director to whom she has believed herself indispensible for far too long. Mary's well-off husband has left her and she has slid into homelessness, a woman living on her wits, secretly and discreetly making use of her employers' comfortable Boston houses when they are away. Becky marries to better herself and finds that her dream turns sour.

The novel's focus moves between past and present, revealing, little by little, how each woman has arrived at her present crisis. Piercy manages these shifts very smoothly, gradually developing an intricate web of relationships as the three begin to discover one another's secrets. She presents us with a vision of life that is hopeful but satisfactorily unsentimental.



■ DEATH OF A FANTASIST
By Simon Mason
Abacus, £6.99

A FUNNY, contemporary, fast-moving novel, which takes its faintly goofy hero Dudley, the fantasist of the title, from a life of dingy futility in England into New York's madcap world of advertising and PR. Both Dudley and his friend Martin, nominated for a best actor award in the Advertising Oscars, find that the exciting language of celluloid fantasy and consumer dreams soon disintegrate into a black comedy with a malevolent edge. But fantasy is no substitute for reality and, in the novel's despairing conclusion, Dudley and Martin become its helpless victims.

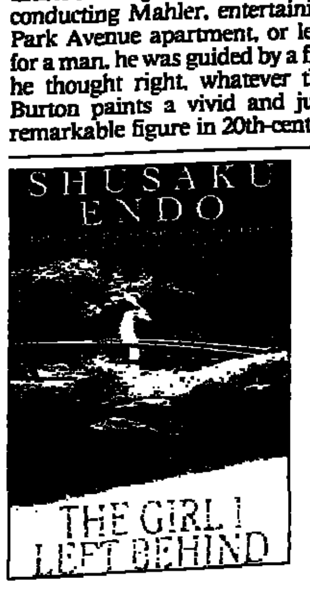


■ JASMINE NIGHTS
By S.P. Somtow
Penguin, £6.99

THE CHILD narrator of this haunting novel is a Thai aristocrat living in a sumptuous but oppressive palace in Bangkok. Caught in the shadowy world of the imagination, Little Frog, studying for his entrance exams to Eton, creates an identity for himself in which the Thai myths told by his grandmother are interwoven with romanticised images of Englishness. Then one day, into his solitude, comes Virgil, a street-wise American boy, who initiates him into the comic confusion of an adult world. Somtow's lyrical prose evokes the fears and excitements of a lonely child caught between the cultures of East and West.

■ LEONARD BERNSTEIN
By Humphrey Burton
Faber, £9.99

"I SMOKE. I drink. I stay up all night. I screw around. I'm overcommitted on all fronts." Flamboyant excess and all-embracing passion were as characteristic of Bernstein's music-making as they were of his private life. Whether conducting Mahler, entertaining the Black Panthers in his Park Avenue apartment, or leaving his long-suffering wife for a man, he was guided by a fierce determination to do what he thought right, whatever the consequences. Humphrey Burton paints a vivid and judicious portrait of the most remarkable figure in 20th-century American music.



■ THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND
By Shusaku Endo
Sceptre, £5.99

WRITTEN 35 years before his most recent novel, *Deep River*, this tender, unashamedly moral tale shares the self-same theme of Christian self-sacrifice in an egotistical world. A student from Tokyo university seduces a simple factory girl by taking advantage of her compassionate nature, then abandons her. She never forgets him, although from then on her kindness attracts only misfortune, while his hypocrisy is rewarded with success. Years later, he seeks her sexual services again — his fiancée is saving herself for marriage — and runs away when he discovers she has leprosy. But events ensure that he will never in fact escape from her again.

■ LILLEY & CHASE
By Tim Waterstone
Headline, £5.99

SET IN the back-stabbing milieu of media London, Waterstone's first book uses marital break-up and the onset of HIV to explore the theme of lost opportunities in a world of middle-class values. These elements fail to fuse, however, and with the absence of plot, what emerges is little more than a series of character portraits. There are some deft and perceptive touches: the recriminations and self-justification of Sam Lilley and his ex-wife are neatly observed and painfully real. But the author is likely to be better remembered as the founder of a chain of bookstores.

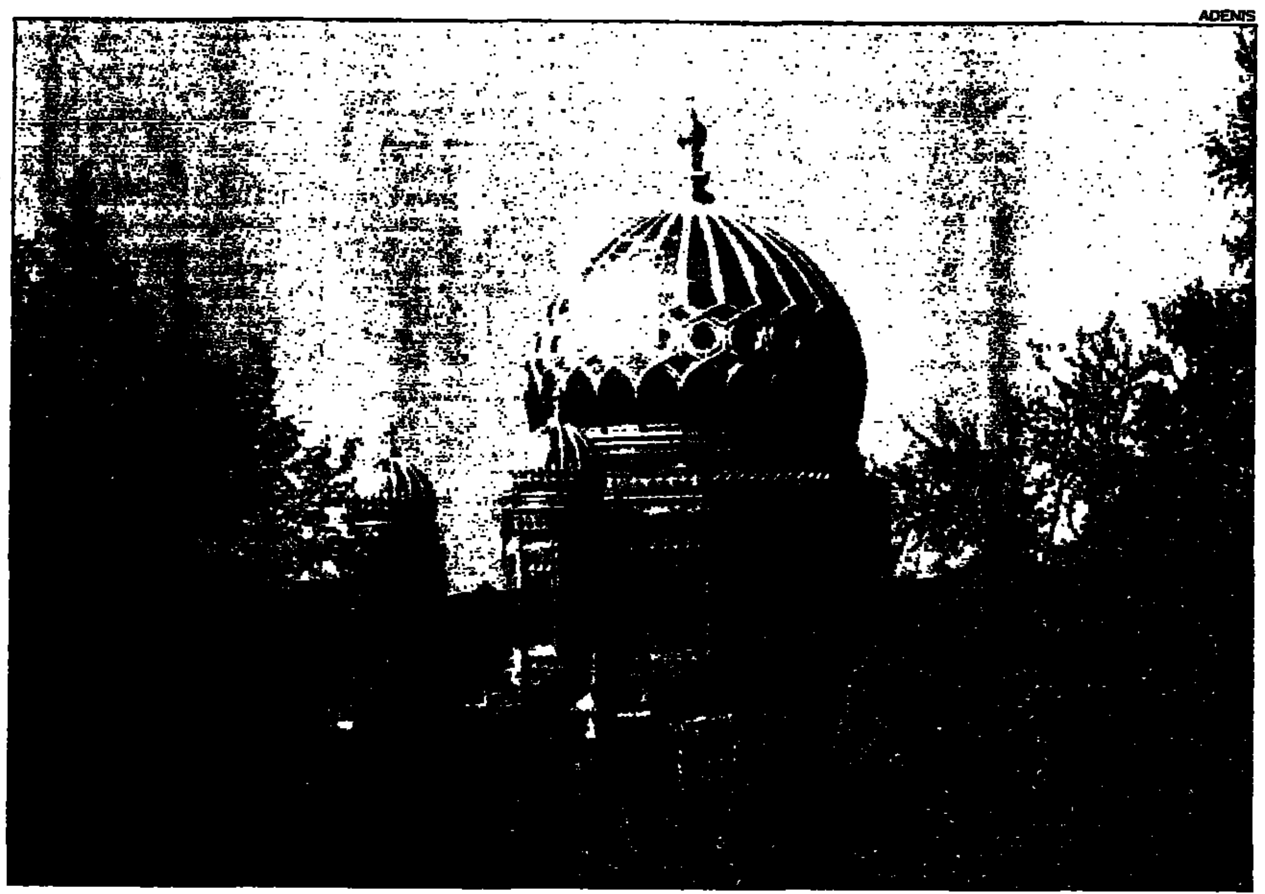
■ A STONE BOAT
By Andrew Solomon
Faber, £5.99

SOLOMON'S highly confessional first novel details the slow death of a woman from cancer, and the harrowing effect her illness has on her family. Central to this is an exploration of the love between mother and son (the narrator), a love complicated by her disapproval of his homosexuality, and by his obsession with her perfection. Though at times self-indulgent, the novel transcends this with its powerful evocation of raw emotion. An original reworking of the twin themes of love and loss.

● *Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Lucy Lethbridge, Ian Brunskill, Nicki Household, Sarah Hall*

Building God's house

Julia Neuberger browses through the history of synagogue architecture



ADENIS

The new Jewish Centre in Berlin: Meek explains the fascination with orientalism among architects of synagogues

"IS there a specifically Jewish architecture?" asks H. A. Meek, author of this sumptuous book on the synagogue, before he proceeds to answer his own questions with "not really", any more than there is Jewish art. There are Jewish artists, architects, artefacts and themes, however. The synagogue was built in different styles, at different periods and in different places. Meek succeeds in categorising styles in this volume, and, even more importantly, in recording for posterity photographs and drawings of synagogues which are no more. Many are from Germany and Poland, destroyed by the Nazis. He describes his late wife sitting on a train in tears, seeing the flames of the destruction of the Fasanenstrasse synagogue in Berlin after *Kristallnacht*. Someone leant over to her and said quietly: "We're not all like that, you know."

Meek owes a considerable amount to Brian de Breffny, a previous recorder of synagogues the world over. His volume emerged in 1978 as a form almost of tribute to Jews and Jewish buildings from a non-Jew. In contrast, Meek likes to spend Saturday mornings in *shool* (Yiddish for synagogue). He is Orthodox, though not "overly religious", and dislikes Reform Judaism, finding it cold and unappealing, as he makes plain in his comments on some American Reform synagogues. He also omits Britain's first Reform synagogue with its Moorish building, the West London Synagogue.

■ THE SYNAGOGUE
By H. A. Meek
Phaidon Press, £34.99

That fashion for the Moorish style is poorly understood. Meek takes us through the aversion to Gothic, related less to the style than, presumably, to Pugin and his followers' association of the Gothic with Christianity. Orientalism was all the vogue, however, and Jews themselves were often described as oriental or exotic, which may help to explain it. Moorish-style synagogues proliferated, from Florence to Berlin, from London to Cincinnati.

This volume will tell the reader a great deal about synagogues, about influences, and about H. A. Meek. It would have been more useful if it had been better referenced, if photographs had been labelled at the side or immediately beneath rather than at the top of the page or opposite, and if the personal references had been curtailed. Although the reader needs to know something of Jewish life to understand the synagogue, it would have been more useful to have started with a less personal account. More on the fascinating history of synagogue architecture, about which Meek knows so much, would have given greater food for thought.

Across the great divide

■ AMERICAN PIE
By Julia Watson
Bantam, £5.99

THE fate of the foreign correspondent's wife is to be dragged from capital city to capital city, making a new circle of friends and just adapting to a new lifestyle before it is time for the next posting. Julia Watson, the wife of *The Guardian's* man in Washington, Martin Walker, put this gypsy lifestyle to sparkling effect with her first novel *Russian Salad*.

Its sequel describes the upheaval of moving from Moscow to Washington. Watson's heroine, Alice Mason, is told by her husband that after the hardship of Russia she will face a life of comfort and ease in the United States. Instead, marooned in suburban Bethesda, she finds the pressures of motherhood in a runaway consumer society as difficult to handle as the uncertainties of the last days of communism.

In order to escape boredom and running the school book-fair committee, Alice explores the excitement of the other Washington: "chocolate city", the drugs and murder capital of America. Predictably, the unpredictable follows.

Watson's funny and innocent alter ego provides a sardonic view of modern America, though over-nostalgic for Moscow. Washington life is easily satirised, but it is a much nicer place to bring up a family and write jolly novels than the crumbling capital of the Evil Empire.

GRAHAM PATERSON

An ever-present comfort

WHAT a potent symbol the Red Cross is, lodged indelibly in our collective subconscious, seen and barely registered in a million places across the globe — painted on the door of a mud-splattered Jeep in an African refugee camp, flying on a home-made flag from a makeshift hospital in Croatia, worn by the tireless dispensers of tea and sympathy at floods in Wales.

To celebrate the Red Cross's 125th birthday, Emily Wood has brought together these and dozens more images in a pictorial history of the society, full of delightful and quirky insights into the work of one of the world's biggest humanitarian organisations: "Did you know . . ." lists are often a tiresome disguise for yawn-inducing trivia, but much of the Red Cross ephemera is irresistible. So: did you know that among the many vital supplies dispatched by the British Red Cross during the Second World War were artificial legs for Wing Commander Douglas Bader? Or that Agatha Christie claimed she gained her knowledge of poisons through her work as a Red Cross dispenser in the First World War?

■ THE RED CROSS STORY
By Emily Wood
Dorling Kindersley, £9.99

■ FREEDOM
Little, Brown, £12.50

The birthday celebrations combine with some creative fund-raising in another book, *Freedom*, an anthology of stories, poems and pictures contributed free by some of our foremost artistic talents. From writers as diversely illustrious as Frederick Forsyth, Anthony Shaffer, Candia McWilliam, P. D. James *et al* come essays, discourses, short stories; there is poetry from the likes of Ted Hughes and Anthony Thwaite; and illustrations by Nick Danziger and Peter Brookes, among others.

This is a marvellous collection, endlessly entertaining, and the British Red Cross gets a royalty from every copy sold. Happy Birthday.

SALLY BAKER

Hospital train from the Boer War

What she did on her holidays

Jane Smiley has taken time out to write a skittish campus romp

CONSUMING obsession, vaulting ambition, the intertwining of character and landscape, the failure of love are scenes that Jane Smiley has addressed in a superb series of novels, most notably *A Thousand Acres*, which won every literary award going.

Smiley is one of the few contemporary writers who can approach tragedy in the raw, with a blazing intensity that makes a family saga as page-turning as a murder mystery. How odd then that she has produced a book as skittish and larky as *Moo*, a campus novel in the tradition of Bradbury and Lodge but, sadly, not half as intelligent.

Moo is a university in the American Midwest, staffed by the usual crew of freeloading hustlers posing as academics who crop up in most fictionalised accounts of academe. Here we have an economics professor cosying up to shady South American governments, a not-quite-famous novelist struggling for tenure, a devious secretary who pulls all the strings.

Moo is set at the beginning of this decade, a time of monetary crisis. Market forces and a philistine State Governor decree that students should be known as customers, financing cut to the bone and potential corporate sponsors dubiously wooed. This can make for a thoughtful kind of fun but more often it gives rise to confusion. There are so many characters voicing their opinions on the current state of play that it is hard to get a grip on them as the plot lurches from one playfully titled chapter to another: "It's Ironic", "He Tells Her He's Not Married", "Who's In Bed With Whom", and so on.

■ MOO
By Jane Smiley
HarperCollins, £15.99

Buried in the frenetic text are some masterly little scenes. A man, married for the second time, becomes a born-again father, to the chagrin of his first batch of children, who remember that "the only time he would willingly be in their presence was driving in the car with at least two of the four sleeping". The tricksy economist has a power lunch in Washington with a Donna Karan-suited fund-raiser and the delicious food comes close to unleashing other Rabelaisian appetites.

One barely-glimpsed strand of the story cries out for its own novel: the pain of an ageing 1960s radical, now chairman of the horticultural department, as he tries to come to terms with the rudely changing times. One longs for Smiley to abandon the weighty satire of *Moo* and get back to the delicate and sombre story-telling she does best.

Smiley: not really a satirist

PENNY PERRICK

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Peter Ackroyd reviews Margaret Drabble's biography of Angus Wilson, author of *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*; Philip Howard and J.W.M. Thompson on Johnson and Boswell; plus poetry, fiction and classics

NORTH OF THE THAMES

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CHISWICK - Cambridge Road North. Three storey period home for sale by auction 6th June. Andrews & Robertson 0171-703-2662.

DORSET SQUARE. 2 bed. bath. shr room. Recep room. L/H £179,000. Cornerstone 0171 486 5551

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MEWS HSE W9 Unusual 2 bed over 3 flrs. Clse tube £189,950 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

NW3 Quick sale. Nice 2 bed upper G/F fl. Belsize Pk no agents £115k 0171 586 7229

REGENTS PK NW1 Grade II Listed town hse. terr £395,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

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Telesales Hotline: 081 209 0200
REPOSSESSIONS

LENNOX GARDENS SW3. Patio flat 2 beds. 1 en-suite bath. 1 en-suite shower, guest cloaks, kit. Lge recep, small patio. L/H approx 21 yrs. £160,000 View today 0171 581 0864 T.

LENNOX GARDENS 2 bed lower ground unmod 21 year lease. £179,000. 0385 302071 T

PRINCES GATE, SW7 Patio flat 2 dble beds.1 en-suite bath. 1 shower/cloak room. 3rd room study/dining room Lge recep. kit. L/H 988 yrs. £249,950. 0171 581 0864 T

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

BARKSTON GARDENS SW5.
Newly modernised appartment in popular garden square. 2 receptions, 3 bedrooms, porterage, entry phone, Gas CH, constant hot water. Long lease.
£279,000.
01932 856944

QUEENSGATE SW7.
Tired of commuting?
Easy to run basement flat, seconds away M4. 2 bedrooms, large sitting room, dining area, kitchen and bathroom. Quietly tucked away in great location for London's delights.
A snip £149,500.
Tel: 0860 479859
Fax: 01628 74719
NB wrong tel no last week

CHELSEA SW10
Redcliffe Road.
Exceptional Family House fully restored and tastefully decorated: Dble Rec Rm, Study, Dining Rm, Family Rm, Kitchen. 4 Bedrms (1 ensuite bath). Further bathrm, Cloaks & upper kitchenette. Terrace & Garden. Ideal Family layout. Marble fireplaces, original cornicing. Burglar alarm. £795,000
Joint Sole Agents
Russell Simpson - 0171 225 0277
Lord Francis Russell & Co
0171 581 4488/0850 255555

HOLLAND PARK W11
Private, bright & spacious 2 double bedroom* flat on 4th floor of modern building, own garage & overlooking trees in communal garden. Close to Holland Park Tube. *plus livingroom; bathroom; modern kitchen; cloakroom & lift. Low service charge.
Leasehold 71 Years
£220,000 - private sale
Tel: 0171 - 229 1038

CHELSEA
Extraordinary modern 1 bed designer flat with 350+ sq. ft. of sunny terraces, separate dining, fully equipped kitchen, marble tiled bthroom & sep. cloaks, fireplace, parking avail., 34 yrs.
OIRO £187,500
Pvt sale: 0171 351 0518

CHELSEA SW10
Large bright lower ground garden flat. Luxury interior designed. Recently refurbished
Master bedroom + ensuite, further double bedroom + bathroom, large reception with doors leading to 40' walled garden, fully equipped kitchen, hall, separate entrance, security.
£199,950 share of freehold.
Tel/fax: 0171-259 2150

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

HOLLAND PARK
Large luxury flat. 4 bedrooms. 2 Rec. 2 Bathrooms. 1 shwr room. Overlooks tennis club. Freehold.
£375,000.
0171 603 8614 eve/weekend
0171 723 7891 day

IFIELD ROAD SW10
A very light & spacious maisonette with roof terrace & outstanding S/W view. 2 bedrms, bathroom, elegant living Rm, kitchen/breakfast Rm, G.C.H. 112 yr lease.
£183,000 no agents.
Telephone 0171 370 7401

QUEEN'S GATE, SW7.
Unique and stylish 1 bed patio flat. Immaculate condition, exceptional finishes and fixtures. Steam room, fully fitted kitchen, hand crafted fold-up bed, mature plants, plus many other features.
Leasehold £179,500
Tel 0171 235 3331
0802 252777
No Agents.

SW3 LUXURY STUDIO FLAT
Immaculate studio flat in prestige Sloane Ave serviced block. Studio rm 21'6"x 10'6" Max, with built in wardrobes/storage cupboards and foldaway double bed; Bosch fitted kitchen; bathroom. Lease 116 yrs. SC £1,250 pa to inc porter, heating, refuse collection & hot water
£80,000
Call 0171 823 8914

BOLTON GARDENS.
Spacious and light garden flat with 2 dble bedrms and large reception leading onto 60' mature private garden. Also dining hall, large kitchen, cellar, bathrm, cloakrm and front garden.
£325,000
87 Year lease. Private sale.
Tel: 0171 373 4763

CHELSEA SW3
4 bdrm house over 4 flrs. 4 bthrms + wc, Bulthaup kit, gge. + off-st. pkg, gdn, sauna, gym, study & more. Long lease.
£895,000
No agents.
0171 351 7065

CHEYNE ROW CHELSEA
Superb spacious and light 1 bedrm garden flat with own entrance. Original range in drawing room. Garden and patio. Share of freehold. Suit multi-nieced executive.
£165,000
Tel 0171 352 6922

Redcliffe Square SW10
Very sunny 1 bedroom top floor flat in a period terrace building, with large private roof terrace and wonderful south-facing views over garden square.
Private sale
£139,000
55 year lease
0171 373 6269

CHELSEA CLOISTERS Sloane Ave Apts for sale Studios from £57,500 1 bedrooms from £115,000 & 2 bedrooms from £150,000 Tel 0171 584 5004

CHELSEA SW10 3 Beds, 2 Baths, 3 Receps. Kit/Breakfast. Garden, Roof Terrace. Freehold £299,000 Aylesford 0171 351 2383

CHELSEA SW10 3 Beds, 2 baths, 2 receps. kit/breakfast. WC. Garden. Freehold £236,000 Aylesford 0171 351 2383

NOTT HILL. W11. Mod 1 bed. gdn, Nr pool. Bargain. Good Pkg £57,000 Tel 0171 228 1658

PALACE MANSIONS W14. Lge 4 bed, 2 bath raised grd flr app. L/H approx 109 yrs. Low outgoings. exc rental investment £185,000. View today 0171 581 0864 T

PROPERTY FIND - Property Search Services. Tel :0171 884 5004.

WESTMINSTER SW1 4 Beds, 3 Baths. Drawing Room. Dining Room. Kit/Breakfast. Cloakroom. Patio. Freehold £398,000 Aylesford 0171 351 2383

WESTMINSTER

Short Walk HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
Light modern 1 bedroom flat, excellent security in fully portered block. Flat would make excellent pied a terre. Sold with carpets, curtains, kitchen equipment. Parking available.
For quick sale £85,000.
Tel: 01685 871394

AYLESFORD ST, PIMLICO
PB 3 Story House with Garage. Style, All mod cons & Split level living. 2 beds, bath, 2 receps. study/ 3rd bed. Kitchen, Patio, Garage. Pimlico tube 250 yrds. 110 yr lease.
£195,000 Private sale
0171 351 2854

HATHAWAYS: Adj Westminster Catherdral. unusually elevated raised ground flr. double aspect. 2/3 recep. 3/4 bed. ensuite bathrm. shower rm. kit/diner. Lease 82 years OIRO £320,000 77, Buckingham Gate, SW1. 0171 222 3133

HAMPSTEAD & HIGHGATE

HAMPSTEAD
1,000 sq ft Raised Ground Floor Flat directly on Hampstead Heath. Large reception. 2 beds, 2 baths, kitchen + separate dining area. High ceilings & fabulous views.
£175,000
Tel: 01284 850393

HAMPSTEAD Newly built unconventional Studio House, garage + forecourt parking space. Freehold £145,000 0171 431 9596 (or 0171 584 4307)

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

NEW MALDEN
Coombeside
Det dble fronted Edwardian house of character. 20 mins Waterloo. Spacious rms: 5 beds, 2 baths (1 e/suite), 4 receps inc Iroko floor off large recep hall. German fitted kit, util rm. clk rm & sep wc, wine cellar. Gge, terrace & gdn. Freehold £295,000 ono.
Tel: 0181 949 7676

TEDDINGTON COTTAGE
Turn of Century, beautifully modernised, spacious, terraced Cottage in quiet lane, nr all amenities. Easy access Waterloo/ Heathrow/ Motor Ways/ City/ Hampton Crt & Thames. 2 Receps, 3 dble beds, bath, clk.rm & attractive small gdn. £145,000.
Tel: 0181 977 4932

ADJOINING RICHMOND PARK
£329,000
Quietly tucked away in a peaceful backwater of Kingston Hill; a late Nineteenth Century home elegantly restored to an exceptionally high standard still retaining much of its original style. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, 22ft dining room
Pls contact
Lords Estate Agents
0181 336 1551

WIMBLEDON

IN VILLAGE Magnificent detached listed building with consent for refurbishment to either 1 large family house or 8 flats. £895,000. Robert Holmes & Co. 0181-947 9833 (day) or 0956-470347 (eves/weekends).

BERKSHIRE

LAMBOURNE DOWNS
Modern split-level house with indoor s/pool & sauna. 4 Beds, 2 Baths, 2 Receps. kit.utility. internal conservatory. dble gge. Standing in 2.7 acres in an elevated position with panoramic views & no near neighbours.
£375,000 (or will let)
Tel: 01734 712405
Fax: 01734 713831

RIVERSIDE HOUSE
Desirable 4 bed house (G/Ch. 2 double 2 single), set on Thames in 4 acres with private fishing and boat mooring. Ideal for retirement or young family with pets.
Enquiries 0171 484 1950
Private sale, no agents

ASCOT 4/6 bed exec home on approx 1 acre in tree lined Avenue opp Racecourse £485,000 Tel WPS 01344 25023

BEDFORDSHIRE

BEAUTIFUL THATCHED PERIOD COTTAGE. WYBOSTON, BEDS. Substantially renovated and re-thatched. exposed beams, detached. 4 bedrooms. 2 bath/shower. lounge. sitting room. dining room. kitchen. Very convenient for A1. Only £119,000. Tel: 01908 668808

KINGS CROSS 47 mins, M1 (J12) 3½ miles. 17th cent Cott. 3 beds &Large sep annexe/ office £195,000. Lane Fox 01582 764343

PRETTY listed thatched cottage. Kings X 35 min. ¼ mile A1. 3 rec. 3 bed. snug. dbl gge. Owner relocated. Offers invited. Must view. Tel: 01989 720495

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BURNHAM VILLAGE
Spacious detached home, recently constructed, situated off gated private drive serving two properties, 10 mins from M4 & M40, Ctrl London 35 mins car/train. Luxury specification comprising Drawing rm, Dining rm, study, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, utility rm, Master suite 18'x18' with dressing rm & bathrm, 4 further bedrms, family bathrm, dble garage £285,000
01628 663999

MILTON KEYNES
No concrete cows in sight. Quiet village location. Quoted Domesday Book. The Jewel is the local Crown. Cricket team even, yet 5 mins junct. 13/14. Thatched detached 14 C. 4/5 Bed, ½ acre. Good schools, child support, neighbours, cleaner etc. Current pp for ext.
Beautiful.£210,000
Tel: 0181 878 7402

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

RIVERSIDE PROPERTY
Spacious family house occupying peninsula in River Ouse. 40 mins Kings X (from St Neotts - 6 mls). 2 mls A1. 4 bds, 2 bths, 3 rec, kit, gge, orchard. Gardens front & side, rear garden down to river. Pontoon and small boat. Beautiful river views.
OIRO £160,000
Tel: 01480 810347

COTSWOLDS

TRULY OUSTANDING VIEWS
Superb Stone country house on Oxfordshire/ Warwickshire border, and on hilltop position with panoramic views. Living room 28' 6" x 16' 6". Large conservatory, oak fitted kitchen/ breakfast room, study/ dining room, cloakroom. 3 Double bedrooms, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, laundry room, oil fired central heating, fully double glazing, gardens, stone out-building.
Offers around £250,000
Tel: 01608 684 263

OXON/ WARKS BORDER TYSOE
New individual village house. 4 Beds (2 Baths), 3 Receps., Kit/Bkf, Util, CH, secluded garden. 8 Miles M40 (J11 & 12) & Banbury Station.
£197,500
Tel: 01295 680 643

LARGE Period family house in small town. Chelt, Ox, Swin triangle. Suit commuter or home worker. Easily manageable gdn Shops 2 mins walk. Potential for annexe. 01993 822325 (T)

OXON/COTSWOLDS Village. 4 miles Burford. Lovely park-like grounds of 3¼ Acres with 3 bed 2 bath modern house for improvement and/or enlargement Guide price £360,000. Tayler & Fletcher Chipping Norton (tel: 01608) 644344

DEVON & CORNWALL

CORNISH COTTAGE
Lovely 250 year old Cottage. with Barn (suitable for conversion). Currently rented out with English Country Cottages.
Bargain, £65,000 F/H.
Tel. 01772 716958 (eves)

DARTMOUTH
4 story Town House 100 yards from river. Spectacular views from roof garden. 4 beds (3 double + 1 ensuite). Extensive renovation, now in superb order with excellent Holiday Let income established. Full C/H etc
£99,500 for quick sale
Full details 01572 755094

LOSTWITHIEL CORNWALL.
Imposing Victorian detached family home. ½ acre of secluded gardens/ orchard. Short distance from town centre. Panoramic views over Fowey Valley. 4 beds, 3 receps, spacious kitchen, bathroom, WC, utility rm, cellar, GCH, all mains services. Freehold £155,000.
01208 872778

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO A prof personal service for purchasers Details 01872 223349

DEVON VILLAGE Individual modern 4 bed detached house located on the edge of this picturesque village commanding panoramic rural views. Silverton is 8 miles north of the county town of Exeter with its national road and rail networks and only 30 minutes from the coast. £99,950 Constables Estate Agents 01392 411917

EAST ANGLIA

WOODBRIDGE
Town centre. Stunning split level converted Chapel. Spacious living area, C/H, 1½ beds, roof terrace, pine scissor beams, Victorian spiral staircase.
A hideaway rarity. Make me an offer I can't refuse iro £84,000 (Freehold) no chain please.
Tel: 01394 380028 (any time)

BECCLES
(Norfolk/Suffolk border)
Classic town house, 5 minutes walk from centre, 10 mins station. 5 bedrms, nice kitchen with Rayburn. Large garden, cobbled yard & outbuildings. A spacious family property of real character.
£165,000
Phone 01502 717266
Fax 711067

HINGHAM NORFOLK
Grade II Listed Town House in beautiful Georgian village. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Many Exposed timbers & Inglenook fireplace. Attractive Pine kitchen. Remote Control Double garage. Walled garden.
£109,000
Home: 01953 850973
Work: 01953 850237

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO. A prof personal service for purchasers Details 01284 704422

NORFOLK Nr Diss. Outstanding converted coach house in 5 acres including 1 acre walled garden. 6 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Viewing is essential. Hamilton Smith 01379 640222

ESSEX

NR MALDON
Grade II listed cottage village location, 3/4 bedrms. large kitchen with Aga, approx ¼acre garden, many beams/studwork. No chain. Quick exchange needed.
OIRO £125,000
Freehold
Tel: 01621 741792 home
0171 772 1883 (bet 9-4pm)

UNIQUE BARN CONVERSION.
3/5 beds. 2 baths. Exceptionally spacious interior. Outstanding tranquil location. 70 mins Liv Street; Stansted (M11) 30 mins.
£185,000
01371 850520

WANTED Rural Cottage or Barn conversion. 3 beds. large gdn. Upto £200,000. 10 miles NE Chelmsford. Cash Buyer. 01245 361298.

HANTS., DORSET, AND I.O.W.

A beautifully presented Victorian detached house 2 miles north of Winchester & 2 miles from M3 Junction 9, with large hall, drawing room, dining room, Country kitchen with Aga, shower room, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, parking for 2 cars, large outbuilding, front & rear gardens. Freehold £185,000.
Tel: 01962 882336

HAMPSHIRE-BASINGSTOKE
Delightful neo-Georgian detached house in quiet Close. 5 bedrooms, en-suite, bathroom, dining room, lounge, study, cloakroom.
Built in workshop, double garage. Rear pillared and part covered patio with 2 mature vines. GCH. All services.
£185,000 ono (freehold)
Tel: 01256 28239
Brochure on request

DORSET
Poole 4, Soton Parkway ½ hr, Waterloo 1hr.
A FINE SOUTH FACING COUNTRY HOUSE with views over own land to Poole Harbour. 5 recep. 5 bed (3 en suite). sep linked suite, leisure suite (office studios), sw pool, stables, paddocks, golf area. £485,000.
Apply 01202 631880 (O)/ 622610 (H) or Fax 632276

LYMINGTON
Luxury Ground Floor Apartment overlooking harbour. Patio, 3 dble rooms (main e/suite), 2nd bath, shower. Gas C/H. Covered carport, launching ramps. Close to village centre. New Forest. Fast rail to London. Good rental possibilities.
£120,000
Contact 01929 459533

DORCHESTER - DORSET
Ground floor flat in quiet position in Town centre with sunny aspect. Large lounge/dining room (22x14ft). Entrance hall, 2 dble bedrooms, kitchen (11x9 ft). Bathroom, garage, communal gardens
Lease 375 years. £80,000 ono including carpets and curtains/blinds
Telephone 0181 892 8151

EMSWORTH.
Rare opportunity to live secluded - in the heart of the village. Easy Cottage (semi) 2/3 beds, bath, Sep shower, through ground floor (Sep kit & Clkrm) leading to recently built garden/ dining room opening to small sun trap garden.
£125,000.
Tel 01243 585526

HANTS., DORSET, AND I.O.W.

ISLE OF WIGHT Ryde
Lux 1st flr flt in quiet resid. area. 3 mins fr hovercraft, cloe to new Ryde Marina. Flly furn. flt, fitted with gd quality carpets throughout, has 2 dbl bdrms, bthrm, kit & lge lnge. All rms have maint. free UVPC dbl glazed tilt & turn wndws. Entrance is through lge conservatory. £43,000
Private sale:
(o) 01983 290425/
(h) 01983 882897/
(fx) 01983 200309

SHAWFORD (NR WINCHESTER)
Substantial secluded det. residence, set in 3.25 acrs. 4 dbl bdrms, 5 g/flr rec. rms. Billiard rm, htd s/pool, flood-lit tennis ct, dbl gge, landscaped gdns with wooded areas & cntryside views.
£675,000
01703 332260 (o)

HAMPSHIRE TEST VALLEY We have a selection of country and village properties including a Period Cottage at Broughton needing some modernisation with 3 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms. Price Guide £225,000 & a Thatched Cottage in Lockerley with 3 bedrooms & a ½ acre Price Guide £180,000. Nicholas Zorab Estate Agents. Romsey 01794 511911

HEREFORDSHIRE, WORCS, & SHROP

RESIDENCE OF CHARACTER CROOK BUILT
Quiet rural setting. ¼ acre. Grade II. Approx 13 C. Easy reach of motorway network. Worcester 12 mls/Birmingham 20 mls. Entrance hall/cloakrm, utility rm, large farmhouse kitchen. 2 receps. bath, wc. 4 beds. gallery apex landing. shower/wc. £285,000
Tel: 01299 250469

HEREFORD 3 mls
5 beds. 3 rec, lovely stone-built rectory, huge rms, original features, beautifully refurbished, open views.
£169,950
0143 287 0384.

RIVERSIDE
18C cottage on banks of trout river on English/Welsh border close to Offa's Dyke. Sitting rm, dining rm, kitchen. 2 bdrms & bthrm. Very attractive garden.
£76,000
Ring: 01446 774772

HERTFORDSHIRE

RICKMANSWORTH
Prime location. 5 min trn Met line. 1890's detached 4 double beds/ 2 full bathrooms/ cloakroom/ study/ x large L reception/ conservatory/ feature kitchen/ breakfast/ utility/ garage/ BBQ patio 50 ft garden. Reduced for quick sale £240,000.
Phone/Fax
(01923) 776448

ST. ALBANS
Victorian semi in Conservation area 5 min walk City Centre & station. Full GCH, 2 receps + breakfast rm, 2 dble beds+ attic/bed. Cellar Enc rear & sm front garden. £119,500
Tel: 01727 830208

ST ALBANS
Superb home/ investment or redevelopment with multiple consents in ½ acre. Would also suit clinics/ retirement home/ hotel. In all about 4000 sq. ft with a further 4000 on OPP. Near City Centre. Peaceful, yet quick access to A1, M25 etc. King's Cross 20 mins. Currently returning about £38k pa on shorthold leases.
£420,000 F/H
Tel: 01727 851498
Fax: 01727 847940

KENT

CANTERBURY, HISTORIC
1694 FAMILY TOWN HOUSE
6 beds inc master bdrm with en suite, 2 lge baths, 2 receps (one 32' & one with oak panelling & inglenook). Cellar/office. Pristine cond. many original carvings & features. Charming garden/patios fountain & summerhouse.
£248,000
Tel: 01227 458292/765537(o)
Fax: 01227 470812

BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE *KENTISH BARN.*
Near Leeds Castle set in 4 acres with stream. Easy access to M20 (channel Tunnel 30 mins, London 40 mins) Late 15th Century. Unique entrance Hall with Swimming pool. Open plan architecturally designed conversion.
Much further potential.
Offers in excess of
£300,000
FH or Long lease.
Tel 01622 735165

BARGAIN
Home/income Folkestone. Prime location. Close harbour/shops. 7 letting rooms/sundeck, comfortable owner's accomodation/patio. Same owner 17 yrs. No chain.
£110,000
01303 256671

KENT

COUNTRY HOME
Overlooking racecourse. Easy distance Channel Tunnel. Motorway to London. Well maintained Edwardian Detached residence set in 1+1/3 acres. 4 double bedrooms, 2 receptions. Kitchen. Breakfast room, Study. Sun lounge. Double garage (elec doors). Snooker room over.
£199,750.
Tel: Hythe (Kent) 01303/ 239410.
Eve 01303/268780.

BENENDEN, Kent. Det hse. 8 acres (inc 3 paddocks), stable. 4 beds. 4 recep. kit/break. bath. shower room. garage. Price £290,000 F/H. Contact Oliver Fisher 01580 714444.

SISSINGHURST, Kent. Det Bung. 4/5 beds, rec. kit/break. 2 shower rms, bath. approx ½ acre gdn. garage. Price £182,950 F/H. Contact Oliver Fisher 01580 714444

WALMER, Regency mansion apartment, 3 beds. Corinthian Columns, Ornate plaster work. luxury kitchen, curved dining room. balcony. £140,000 01304 380762 m 0860 781313

MIDLANDS

DUCK POND FOR SALE
With barn and garden attached in Derbyshire Peak District National Park. Upstairs: 40' sitting rm, study, kit. Downstairs: 4 beds, 2 baths, util & hall. D/glazed. Outside: stone built workshop, outbuildings, landscaped gardens, gnmhse, kitchen gdn. Nr Derby/ Stoke/Sheff/Manc'r/Notts
£237,500
Tel: 01335 310303

RUTLAND 2 bed stone cottage in picturesque village of Barrowden, close to Rutland water and Stamford. recently renovated. Ideal weekend retreat £64,950 01572 737756

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

DREAM COTTAGE
Northants, nr. Oundle: 17c. stone cottage detached: 3 bds: Colly Weston roof: magnificent Inglenook dble ht. Baronial dining hall: tripple aspect sitting rm: panoramic views Nene Valley: direct access parkland: easy access motorway network: trains 50 mins London: excess £185,000 f/hold.
0171 584 6232
01832 720766

BRAUNSTON
nr Warks border
£425,000. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 receps, large dining room, lge kitchen. indoor swimming pool, sauna, large leisure/function room. double garage. 6 acres. Close to canal.
01788 891315

OXFORDSHIRE

2/3 BED BUNGALOW
By Berkeley Homes built to their usual exceptional standards. 2 years old with NHBC. Large double garage. Sunny garden with patio. Henley 5 mls. Reading 7 mls. Easy access M40 & M4.
£168,500.
Tel: 01491 628514

C17th COTSWOLD STONE SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE
Commuters week-end haven! 2 beds, study/3 bed, recep with living flame fire, beamed kit/living rm, bath. Cottage garden. Car-port/store. Pleasant village, 1 mile S.E. of Witney. Oxford 10ml. L'don M40 60ml.
£95,000.
Tel: 01993 772337

OXON/BUCKS BORDER
Lovely restored det cottage in friendly village. 4 beds 3 receps FF Kit Bathrm. Showerm. CH. DG. 2 garages. Garden. 12 mins M40 J5 & Princes Risborough Stn.
£195,000
01844 212397

CHARMING Wendlebury village. 4 bed, 2 bath, det house. Private sth facing garden. Ideal family home. Exc access M40, London 1 hr. £166,000. 01869 247088

HOUSE MUST BE SOLD - Urgent. Owner returning to USA. 17th Century farmhouse full of period charm & character. 4/6 beds, beams, inglenook fireplace. £165,000 Freehold. Extra buildings & land £20,000. Telephone 01993 705916

OXFORDSHIRE Ewelme. 18th century village house with 4 reception, 6 bedroom, 2 bathrooms. 3/4 bedroom cottage. delightful gardens of .4 acres Price Guide £475,000 Black Horse Agencies, Wallingford Office 01491 836661

SOUTH OXON - Wallingford 2½ m. Didcot St. 3 m. Attractive listed Farmhse, adj farmland on edge of village. 3/4 receps, 6 beds, 4 baths. 2 bed barn cottage. Garaging. Delightful gdns. pond. About 4 acres. Lane Fox: 0171-499 4785. 01734 846757

SCOTLAND

BRIDGE OF ALLEN, Stirlingshire Unique family house and charming granny cottage with magnificent views. Main House: vestibule hall 4 recep rooms lux kit utility 2 clks playroom 4 beds (master en suite) bath/shower rms. DG GCH D/garage. 2 bed cottage Landscaped garden Ref 1946 Allen & Harris Tel 01786 462355

SOMERSET & AVON

BATH
Charming well modernised 2 bedroom Georgian terraced home, secluded sunny well stocked garden, CH, on street parking, close city centre & BR station.
£72,500.
Tel: 01634 843527.

BATH
Village Cottage for completion to Purchaser's requirements, 2000sq feet plus garage, parking,1/3 acre Panoramic southern views Bath 6mls, M4 4mls
Listed Lodge, lounge, kitchen double bed,study, garden,pkg 1 mile City centre 1/2m University secure, sunny,£100k/£550pcm
Tel 01225 480437

CLIFTON, BRISTOL
Elegant listed Georgian terraced town house. 8 rooms, period features, New Victorian bathroom, 2 shower/WC, laundry/cloakroom. Full gas central heating. Small front garden. Patio garden to rear. Planning permission for two extra bedrooms. Ideal location for university, city, shops and schools.
Offers over £175,000
Tel:0117 973 1920

CREWKERNE & Chard. For details of traditionally built det houses & bungalows, all with GCH fr £90 £135,000 Call Charles Bishop Ltd 01935-22198

SURREY

VICTORIAN RIVERSIDE PROPERTY EAST MOLESEY
Semi-detached Victorian property in conservation area with 110' mature garden backing onto the River Mole. Spacious family house in premier road with 4 reception rooms, 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, detailed planning permission for reception room, shower room, bedroom and bathroom. 25 Mins waterloo, easy access A3, M3, M25.
Offers in region of £360,000
Tel: 0181 224 1295

ST. GEORGE'S HILL
Weybridge
OPEN DAY
Rare opportunity to purchase a magnificent 5 bed Tarrant house in superb condition, grounds approx. 1 acre. Ideal family, entertaining &/or investment.
£645,000
Tel: 01932 858135.

COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO Professional, personal, independent service for purchasers. Brochure 01276 671144.

GUILDFORD Quietly situated in established residential area. 1 mile town centre (W'loo 36 mins). Spacious character house with det studio/office set in secluded south/west ¼ acre gdn 5 beds, 3 baths (2 suites), 5 receps. kit/bkfst room, garaging for 3. £450,000 Hill Clements, Guildford Tel: 01483 300300

HASLEMERE Edwardian House. quietly and privately situated, under 6 mins of stn. 5 beds, 2 receps, garaging. Grounds 0.38 acre £295,000. Keats Harding. Haslemere (01428) 661622.

PEPER HAROW Nr Godalming Amid spectacular countryside with lg gdns to River Wey. Grand Mansion Houses for own improvement and various outbuildings £125,000-£395,000. Open today and next Sat/Sun 12.00-3pm Access off A3. Barton Wyatt 01344 842857

SUSSEX

CENTRAL BRIGHTON
3 Storey listed house in quiet pedestrian lane near Royal Pavilion, seafront and shops. 3 recep. 4 beds. 2 bath. Kitchen, utility. WC and cellar. GCH. 1 Hr London or work at home.
£175,000 Freehold.
Tel: 01273 673 544

SLINDON
Grade II Coach House. Period features. 4/5 bedrms, 2 bathrm. Sympathetically restored, lovely views. GCH. DG. Close main line station. Lge Det Dbl garage. Fitted carpets/curtains.
£269,000
Tel 01243 814622

CHIDHAM In an outstanding position with views of Bosham & Chichester Harbour. 1900's det chalet bung 4 beds, 2 rec, 2 bath Granary & garage. 1.28 acre grounds adj farmland. £200,000 Henry Adams & Partners 01243 533377

WALES

PEMBROKESHIRE (South) National Park 2 mins beautiful beach. Group of stone barns. £89,500. Tel: 01646 661480

WARWICKSHIRE

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Malmesbury. Detatched South facing 5/6 beds, 5 baths (4 ensuite) 2 receps. Lge FF kit / B'Fastroom. Utility and WC. Pretty gdns. Lge gge / Workroom. Easy reach M4, Bath, Bristol, Swindon, BR 25 mins (London 50 mins).
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Luxury residence. Partly furn. 6 bdrms (4 with e/s). 5 recs. split-level kit. lux bthrm with sauna, bar rm with grand piano, dble gge, ¼ acre gdn.
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CHELSEA SW3. Split level studio flat, sep sleeping alcove. Beautifully furn. Suit single prof. £165pw. 0171 731 5808

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RENTALS

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MAIDA VALE W9 Elegant decor bright spac 2 bd 2 bth flat recep F/F kit w/m/d gch balcony £260pw 0181 953 8911 t

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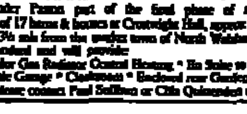

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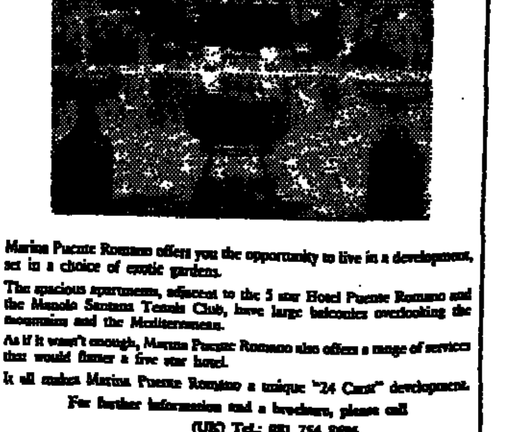

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هكذا من الاصل

Robinson Crusoe's home from home

If you really want to get away from it all, why not buy one of the many islands around Britain's coastline?

The ultimate in seclusion must be to own an island, and there are always islands for sale somewhere off the coast of Britain. They can be little more than a rocky escarpment, home only to seagulls, or offer a wide variety of scenery and interest. Few remain in the same hands for long, as most are bought on a whim and are back on the market within a short time.

For about £75,000 you can buy the abandoned island of Scarp, in the Outer Hebrides. Lying off the west coast of Harris, the uninhabited 2,500-acre island is remote, access being by boat from Harris to the island's private pier. The nearest airport is Stornoway, 50 miles away.

Scarp offers a rugged coastline and fertile land around the derelict former school house, on its southeastern shore. Opportunities for investment are strictly limited. Scarp has about 127 acres of land under the tenure of 16 crofts, producing an annual income of only £47.35.

Although the last of the resident crofters left in 1971, some still use their cottages during the summer and the land to graze their animals. The rest of the island is either common grazing or water. The two lochs, if stocked, could provide fishing.

Sporting rights for salmon and sea trout rod fishing are included in the price. However, the title to the island prohibits its development for tourism, says agent Savills, which is handling the sale of this BCCI asset for the accountants Touche Ross.

Prospective buyers with a taste for malt whisky and a yearning for an island home with good sheep farming and salmon fishing might prefer the island of Texa. Due west of Glasgow, the 140-acre island with a private jetty, about half a mile off the south coast of Islay (with its airport and malt whisky distilleries), is easily accessible by boat.

It has a modernised cottage, used by the owners as a holiday home, with water from a natural spring and an electricity generator. The island is available with vacant possession, apart from the resident population of feral goats, seals, otters and bird life. Savills is asking for offers in excess of £80,000.

The Treshnish Isles are a chain of uninhabited islands stretching for six miles off the Isle of Mull, on Scotland's western seaboard.

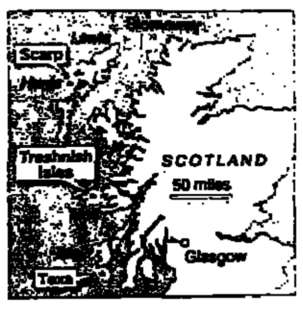
Noted for their beauty and seclusion, they are on offer at £600,000, through Knight, Frank & Rutley in Edinburgh. In all, the five main islands, plus numerous smaller islets, cover some 320 acres, and are renowned for their bird life, in particular barnacle geese and storm petrels.

A paradise for ornithologists and botanists, the Treshnish Isles are designated a Special Protection Area for the Conservation of Wild Birds and a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

A ruined castle and the remains of cottages are dotted among the islands, but there is no scope for development. Access is by boat from the Isle of Mull.

Less than a mile off Plymouth, the historic seven-acre Drake's Island in Plymouth Sound, where Sir Francis played bowls in 1588, is for sale at £250,000 through Knight, Frank & Rutley. If the new owner agrees (not a condition of the sale) to renovate the deep water pier, the vendors (The Crown Estates) will make available to the owner up to £235,000 on satisfactory completion of the work.

The uninhabited 2,500-acre island of Scarp in the Outer Hebrides has come on the market for about £75,000



William Jackson of Knight, Frank & Rutley in Edinburgh advises would-be Robinson Crusoes to take professional advice before committing themselves to buying an island. He suggests using an independent agent to advise on any purchase.

A good, reliable natural water supply is essential. Also easy access from the mainland and somewhere with a reasonable shelter. Traditionally, islands offer good capital investment potential if you hold onto them long enough, but don't expect much, if any, annual income. Finally, don't become a slave to your island.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● *Further information: Savills, 46 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ (0131-226 6961); Knight, Frank & Rutley, 2 North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH2 4HR (0131-225 8171); Knight, Frank & Rutley, 19 Southernhay East, Exeter, Devon (01392 423111).*

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Price Guide: £1,500,000

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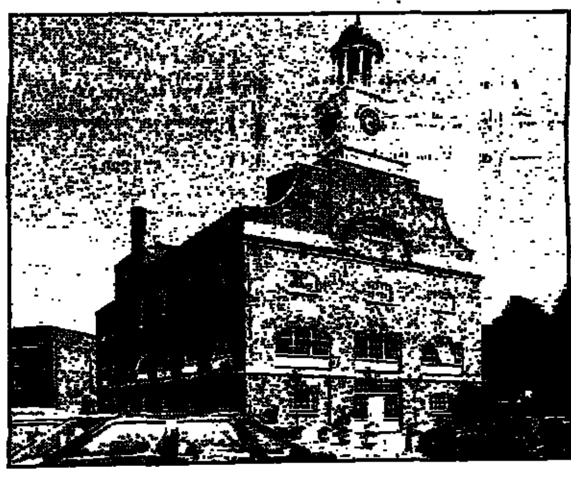

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SURREY – South Holmwood **Price Guide: £370,000**

Between Dorking and Horsham, a distinctive Grade II listed house by Sir Edwin Lutyens. 6/7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 shower rms, reception hall, 3 reception rms, kitchen/breakfast room, playroom, utility room. Garaging for 4 cars, attractive garden and loggia.

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OXFORDSHIRE
Woodstock

A listed house, centrally located, with flexible accommodation and scope for expansion into the attached former bakehouse. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, 2/3 receps, kit, b'fast rm, utility rm, cellar, walled garden of approx 122ft. Garage available to rent.

Price Guide: £295,000

OXFORD: 01865 311522

WILTSHIRE
Near Malmesbury

In a private village position, a superb detached period cottage with good sized family accommodation, a lovely mature garden and paddock. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, double garage, paddock, garden. About 1 acre.

Price Guide: £225,000

CIRENCESTER: 01285 642244

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Near Cirencester

A well planned barn conversion with superb views, on the edge of a popular hamlet. 4 beds, 2 baths, clkrm, drawing room, dining room, hall/study, kitchen, utility rm, garden, off-road parking, garaging.

Price Guide: £230,000

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SUSSEX
Forest Row

Pleasantly located, a new detached Scandia-Hus of approx 2,260 sq ft, built to a high specification with low running costs. 4/5 beds, 2 baths, 2/3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, utility rm, double garage, garden. JSA: John Powell & Partners 01342 822261

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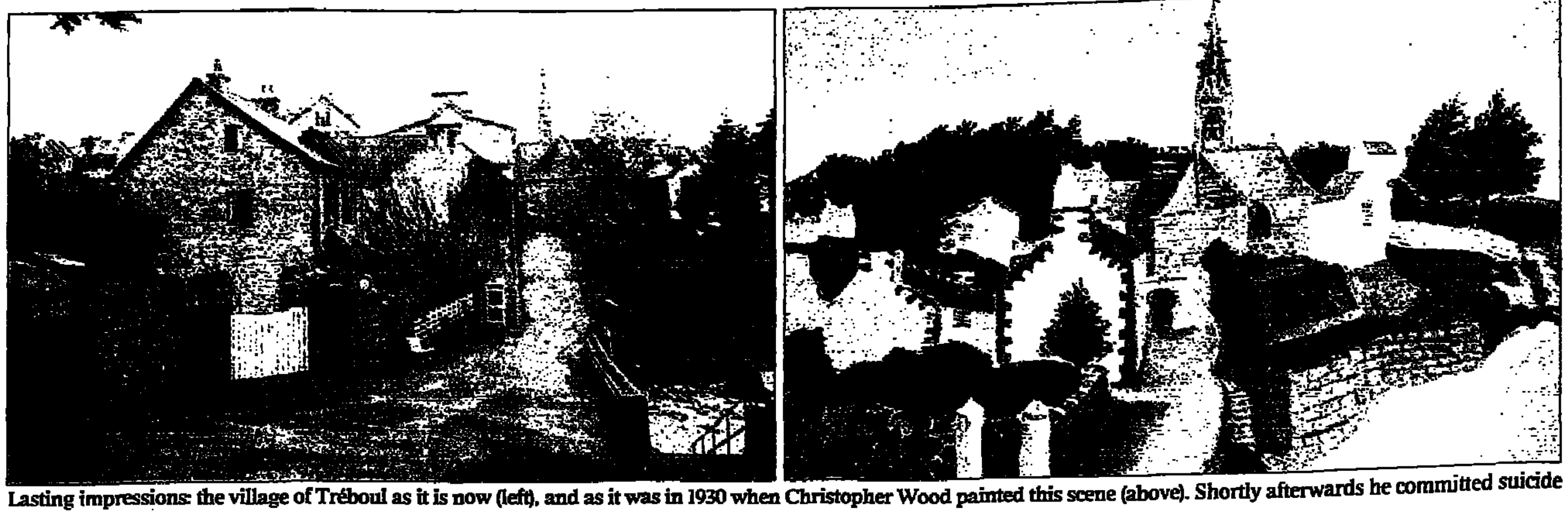
FRANCE: A corner of Brittany captured on canvas, plus art nouveau fantasy at a house in Epernay

A glimpse of Wood through the trees


SOTHEBY'S

Lasting impressions: the village of Tréboul as it is now (left), and as it was in 1930 when Christopher Wood painted this scene (above). Shortly afterwards he committed suicide

Turner, Monet, Matisse, Renoir and Gauguin all made visits to Brittany. Today the area makes the most of its "cultural tourism". For several months each summer, painting schools open up all around the village of Pont-Aven and the streets fill up with fold-away easels and the smell of paint. Twenty miles up the coast lies the much less famous village of Tréboul, renowned locally for its seafood and the beauty of its landscape.

Tréboul is sandwiched between some of the most dramatic coastline in all France and a series of long sandy beaches, yet Bretons here are equally proud of their heritage. On a Sunday in April, the villagers gathered around their mayor in the Place St Jean, in the shadow of a tiny 16th-century chapel, to watch the unveiling of a bust of Max Jacob: Resistance fighter, Holocaust victim, poet, painter and mystic. Jacob was a native Breton from Quimper, ten miles south of Tréboul who, with Picasso and Apollinaire, was one of the legends of the Parisian Left Bank in the early years of this century.

In the summers of 1929 and 1930 he was joined there by the English painter Christopher Wood, and the pictures that Wood painted at Tréboul are some of the finest landscapes by any Englishman between the wars. Wood killed himself a few weeks after his second visit to Tréboul in August 1930. He was only 29, but had already earned a considerable reputation.

In 1930 Tréboul was remote, a popular seaside resort from July to September but deserted for the rest of year. This hasn't changed, although these days the village has been absorbed by the suburban sprawl of the nearby fishing port of Douarnenez (twinned with Falmouth). In recent times good roads have brought the Atlantic coast to within four hours of Paris and in the summer French holidaymakers flock there. Brittany is no less popular with the British, but few of them seem to make it as far west as Douarnenez and Tréboul.

When Christopher Wood went there 65 years ago he was attracted to the region by its similarities with Cornwall, where he felt he belonged and where he had painted with great success in 1926 and 1928. Wood and Jacob stayed at the Hotel Ty Mad overlooking the village square that now houses Jacob's bust. The bust looks towards the Chapel of St Jean, a view that has changed little since Jacob was there. There has been some shocking and insensitive building in what was once a very pretty village, but there are still corners where the spirit that Wood caught so well lingers.

Wood's world was one of dark fir trees, deep blue seas, little white houses and simple churches with elaborate granite carvings. These key ingredients are largely unchanged and roadsides and hillsides are still peppered with the same strange and unexpected stone configurations. The Hotel Ty Mad still stands and operates as an efficient, if basic, family-run hotel. A more luxurious place to stay is the remote Hôtel de la Plage at Ste Anne la Palud, a few miles up the coast on the longest of the beaches, which also boasts one of the two Michelin-starred restaurants in the vicinity.

In the middle of July 1930 Christoper Wood wrote, wearily, to his mother: "I work terribly hard and have almost worked myself to the end for the time being and begin to feel that I want to leave this place ... the holiday folk are coming and I hate them." This part of France with its beaches, sea cures, sailing schools and watersport centres has plenty to offer "the holiday folk", but, as in Wood's day, it is still at its best before they arrive. Many of the restaurants and hotels stay shut until the summer months, but those that stay open through the year are often those most worth seeking out — such as the curious Bar de la Criée (meals from £10), lurking behind unmarked doors on the top floor of the Port Authority building in Douarnenez's harbour. It looks like an office, but serves some of the simplest freshest seafood in Brittany.

RICHARD INGLEBY

Fact File

☐ The author travelled to Brittany as a guest of Brittany Ferries (01752 221321). Standard fare: Plymouth-Roscoff, one passenger with car, from £118 (passenger alone from £15). Poole-St Malo from £150 (passenger only from £20).

☐ Accommodation: Hôtel Ty Mad at Tréboul (00 33 98740053): Fr250 (about £32) for a double room, B&B. Hôtel de la Plage at Ste Anne de Palud (00 33 98925012): from Fr650 (about £84) for double room, B&B.

☐ Richard Ingleby's biography of Christopher Wood will be published on May 29 (Allison & Busby, £25).

☐ There will be an exhibition of Wood's work at The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 5116) from May 22-July 30.

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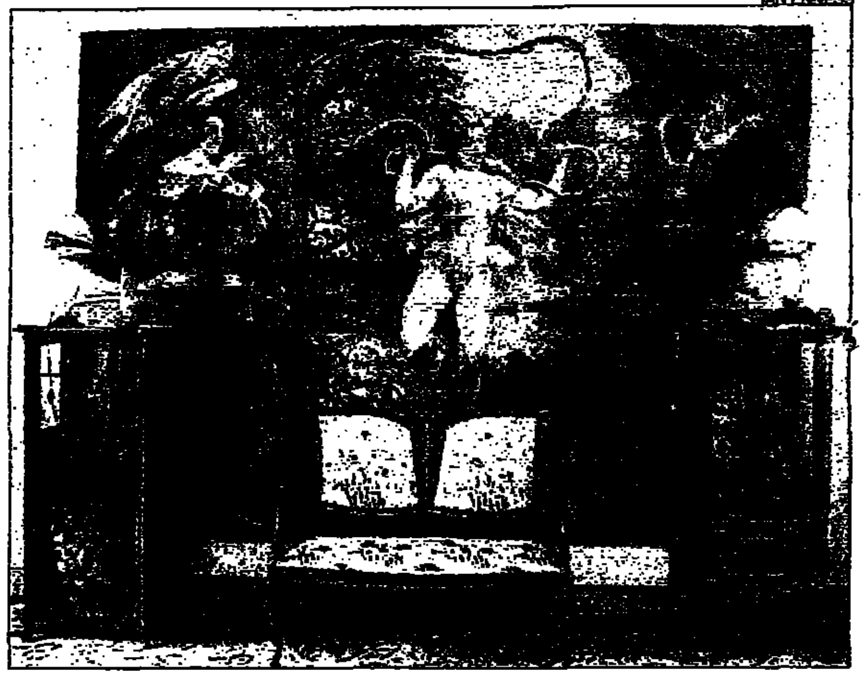

IAN ENNESS

A sample of the art nouveau collection at the Maison Belle Epoque in Epernay

I AWOKE IN my art nouveau bed, designed by Hector Guimard, the architect and cabinet-maker from the school of Nancy, signed and dated 1910. Here at the Maison Belle Epoque in Epernay, in the heart of champagne country, art nouveau treasures surrounded me. Every room was a nature-inspired fantasy of flowers, birds, dragonflies, woodland scenes and healthy maidens.

The art nouveau period was not so much a style as a movement away from dull, gloomy and fussy 19th-century interiors. The 1890s opened the doors to this new movement of modern interior design, which owes much to William Morris and his revolutionary thinking. These ideas and designs can be seen in Maison Belle Epoque's carpets, curtains and wall coverings, all copied from original designs.

The house belongs to the Perrier-Jouet champagne family. It dates from 1811, when Adèle Jouet and Nicholas Marie Perrier founded the company. Now redesigned to house its art nouveau collection, it contains some of the finest original pieces in the world, much envied by museums and collectors.

The interior was inspired by a bottle that the designer and glassmaker Emile Gallé created in 1900. This bottle had long been forgotten and was covered in dust in the company's cellars when it was discovered in 1964 by Pierre Ernst, now the managing director, and André Bavare, head cellar master. M Ernst, inspired by Gallé's bottle, launched the wine Belle Epoque.

Like many champagne producers in the region, Perrier-Jouet has extensive cellars. More than ten kilometres of cellars run between seven to 20 metres underground and house more than ten million bottles. I kept close to my hostess in this maze of tunnels for fear of getting lost — but at least I'd die with a smile on my face. A bottle of 1825 Perrier-Jouet opened recently tasted remarkably good.

The surrounding champagne area is picturesque. At one time, the chalklands were known for poor quality soil, but today's fertilisers have transformed the area into one of the most productive agricultural regions in northern France.

Art of Perrier-Jouet

Around nearby Rheims, the steep slopes of the Côte de L'Île-de-France have been covered with vineyards since the 17th century and have produced the finest sparkling wines. Nearby Hautvilliers is worth visiting to see the house of Dom Perignon who, in the 17th century, was the cellar-master at the local abbey.

JEAN ENNESS

☐ *The author was a guest of Perrier-Jouet and flew with British Airways (0345 222111) from Gatwick to Paris Charles De Gaulle. Return fare (effective until July 13). Mon-Thurs £88.80; Fri, Sat and Sun £98.80 (must include a Sat night stay). Air Liberty (0345 228899) flies from Gatwick to Paris Orly; a weekday return ticket costs £108, weekends £123.*

☐ *To view the Maison Belle Epoque collection, write to Frédérique Bavaret, Champagne Perrier-Jouet, 28 Avenue de Champagne-BP31-Epernay, Cedex (00 33 26 55 20 53). Perrier-Jouet does not offer cellar tours, but other companies do.*

A Journey to
LOWER NUBIA

Most tourists believe that 'the world ends', and in particular the Nile ends, at Aswan; this is not true. It is true that the region of Nubia is lonely and difficult to access, but it is now possible to cruise, by Nile steamer, along Lake Nasser and through Lower Nubia.

Since the construction of the High Dam at Aswan, the Nile beyond the dam had effectively been cut off to navigation. The only solution was to actually build a vessel on the other side which first required a complete shipyard to be constructed. The result is the luxury vessel MS Eugenie which now plies this part of the Nile on a week-long cruise, affording the visitor views of the Nile not seen for many decades.

Our journey commences with a direct flight from London Gatwick to Aswan, immediately joining the vessel positioned on the other side of the High Dam. The itinerary visits the many fascinating and rarely-visited treasures of Lower Nubia, many of which have been saved from the waters of Lake Nasser.

The MS Eugenie

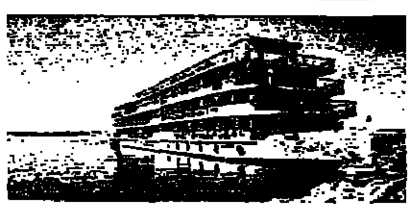
The MS Eugenie is operated by the 'Belle Epoque' company renowned for offering the finest standards on the Nile. Constructed in 1993 in the style of a turn-of-the-century Nile steamer, she is 74m long, with just 48 cabins all with full facilities - sauna, sun decks, saloon bar, swimming pool, full air-conditioning and a state-of-the-art water filtration system. The minimum size cabin has 21 square metres of living space.

Itinerary

Day 1 Morning departure from Gatwick to Aswan. Flight with Excalibur Airlines (approx. 5 hours). Afternoon arrival then drive to the MS Eugenie which is our base for the next seven nights. Dinner will be on board in front of Kalabsha Temple and moor overnight.

Day 2 After breakfast visit the Temple of Kalabsha, one of the largest temples in Nubia. Rejoin the MS Eugenie and cruise to Wadi el Seboua to visit the temple renowned for its avenue of sphinxes and its well-preserved wall colours. Moor in Seboua overnight.

Day 3 After a late breakfast cruise to Amada, lunching on board en route. Afternoon visit to the Amada oasis which includes the Temple of Amada, the Hemispos of Derr and the Tomb of Penout. Continue to cruise up the lake for the fortress of Kasr Ibrim. Dinner and overnight in front of the citadel.



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Day 4 After a late breakfast cruise towards Abu Simbel taking lunch en route. Visit Abu Simbel followed by a candlelit dinner overlooking the illuminated temple. In the mid-60s the temples were dismantled piece by piece and moved uphill in order to prevent them being submerged by the rising waters which formed Lake Nasser caused by the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

Day 5 The day is spent at leisure moored by Abu Simbel, giving the opportunity to see the sun rise over the magnificent temple. Further exploration of the area is possible including the smaller temple which has some fine friezes. Dinner and overnight at Abu Simbel.

Day 6 Sail back to Kasr Ibrim where there is time to explore this ancient fortress before continuing to Wadi el Seboua lunching on board. Dinner and overnight in front of Wadi el Seboua.

Day 7 After breakfast explore the Wadi el Seboua oasis which includes the main temple itself, the Temple of Dakka, the last remaining temple of the XVIII dynasty in Nubia, and the Temple of Mahraka. Sail on to Kalabsha for dinner and overnight.

Day 8 Optional excursion to the Temple of Philae. Transfer to Aswan airport for the direct afternoon flight back to London Gatwick arriving in the evening.

Departure Dates & Prices
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Jun 5, 12, 19, 26	£495
Jul 3, 10, 17, 24	£495
Aug 7, 14, 21, 28	£520
Sep 4, 11	£540
Oct 2, 9, 16	£585
Nov 6, 13	£585
Nov 20, 27	£640
Dec 4, 11	£585
Dec 18*	£1225
Jan 1	£640
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29	£715
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	£715
Mar 4, 11, 18, 25	£695
Apr 1	£720
Apr 8, 15, 22, 29	£585

* Special Christmas departure. 14 nights duration - 7 nights cruise and 7 nights bed and breakfast in the Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan.

Supplements per person

Single room (May to Oct)	£150
Single room (Nov to Apr)	£235
Single room (Dec 18th only)	£470
Upper Deck	£95

Price includes: return air travel, full board on cruise, excursions and entrance fees, all transportation, services of guides. All departures are accompanied on the vessel by a knowledgeable local lecturer/guide. Not included: travel insurance, overseas airport tax, visa, tips. All prices are subject to change.

Important Note
Departures from 25 September onwards
Entrance fees to the sites have just been increased and departures from 25th September onwards now carry a supplement of £19 per person.

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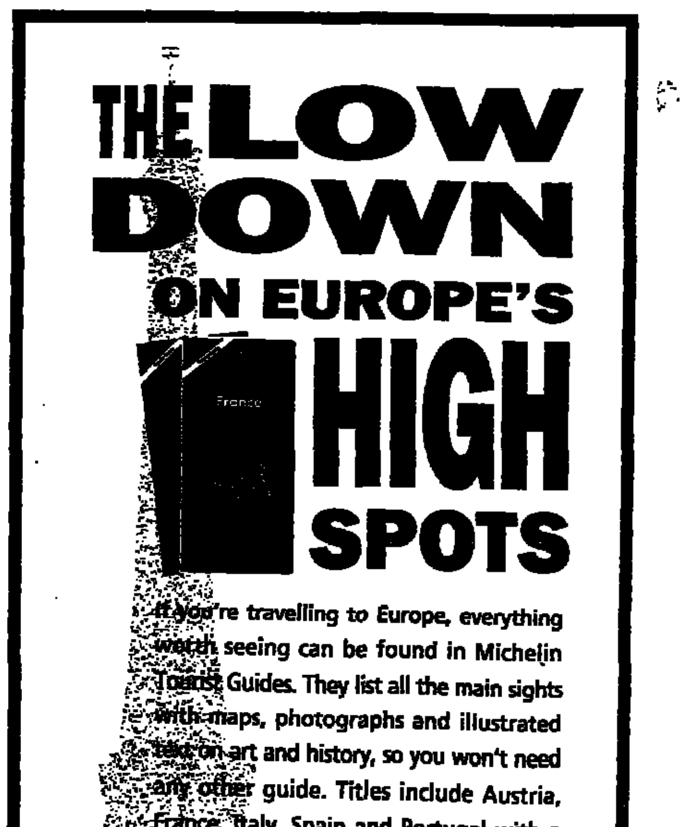

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SHORT BREAKS: Jill Crawshaw examines the latest deals

Make a long weekend of it

THIS is the second part of a selection of romantic, exotic, nostalgic and budget-price short breaks.

WATER WILDERNESS

DESCRIBED as France's Fenland, the Marais Poitevin, a 12th-century network of waterways in the southern Vendée, is the scene for gentle canoeing trips, which can last from three days up to a week. La France des Villages provides a two-person Canadian canoe, life jackets, tent, cooking pots and maps as you head off at your own pace.

A three-day break, including equipment and Channel ferry fares for car and passengers, costs £196-£221 per person. You can combine the canoeing trip with golf or riding, or stay in a *gîte*.

● *La France des Villages, Model Farm, Rattlesden, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 0SY (01449 737664).*

STEPHEN MARKESON

Enjoy the exotic splendours of Morocco, a mere four hours away by plane

EXOTIC DELIGHTS

BRITAIN'S nearest truly exotic country is Morocco, though some may find the hustling of its street sellers difficult to cope with. Cadogan's short breaks, however, offer a fairly pampered sampling.

A three-night stay in Marrakech at the celebrated art-deco-cum-Moorish Mamounia hotel, where Sir Winston Churchill wintered and painted, costs £525, including flights but no meals.

For those who prefer to be away from the bustle of this pulsating city, the five-star Palmaraie Gold Palace has five pools, nine restaurants, a fitness centre and an 18-hole golf course designed by Robert Trent-Jones, where a round comes free between mid-June and September. A three-night bed and breakfast break there costs £430. The prices quoted are from mid-June to mid-July, and the flight is about four hours.

● *Cadogan Holidays, 9-10 Portland Street, Southampton, Hampshire S09 1ZP (01703 332661).*

BATTLEFIELD TOURS

IN THE 50th anniversary year of the end of the Second World War, battlefield tour specialist Holts is offering 29 commemorative visits.

Among them is a four-night break to Berlin, Potsdam and Colditz, tracing the final battles for Berlin. The tour costs £699, half board, which includes return flights and expert lecturers, many of whom took part in these great events.

A series of 18 "80 Years On" breaks, based on the First World War, include a three-night "Tanks Tour", showing how these fighting vehicles revolutionised land warfare on the Western Front from 1916. There are visits to the Tank Museum at Bovington Camp, Dorset, the Somme battlefields, Cambrai and Arras. The two and three-night visits by coach cost £349, half board.

● *Holts' Battlefield Tours, 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9DA (01304 612248).*

SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL

SPECIALIST operators can offer weekends and short breaks to some of Europe's most delightful places, such as Santiago de Compostella in Spain. Its history and architecture are well documented, from the vast, 12th-century cathedral and square, to a profusion of smaller churches and precincts. Its students, taverns, and tapas bars add a livelier dimension.

Mundi Color offers a choice of hotels in the city, and a three-night stay at possibly the world's oldest and most beautiful hotel, the Parador Reyes Catolicos, built in 1501, costs from £534.

● *Mundi Color, 276 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1BE (0171-828 6021).*

BACCHUS BECKONS

A HEADY combination of wine-and-music breaks from Arblaster & Clarke this summer include a long weekend (four nights) at the Aix en Provence Festival, July 20-24, with nightly performances of Rossini's *Comte Ory* and Mozart's *Cosi Fan Tutte*, as well as *al fresco* lunches in Provençal wine domaines, and excursions and wine tastings. Price, £699 half-board.

An unusual Portuguese break visits Oporto for the festival of the patron saint, São Jãoa, in July. In a somewhat bizarre ritual, the townspeople take to the cobbled streets, attacking each other with bundles of herbs. This four-night break costs £599, including flights, a train trip up the Douro, with lunches and dinners as guests of Port cellars, and a visit to the Bairrada wine region.

● *Arblaster & Clarke, Clarke House, Farnham Road, West Liss, Hampshire GU33 6JQ (01730 893344).*

ON THE CHEAP

BUDGET breaks to Prague and Budapest, two of the most fashionable capitals in Europe, are available from Campus Travel, based on two and three-star hotel accommodation, and charter flights. Flights cost £149 return (June 19-July 2) to Prague, rising to £169 from August to mid-September. Three nights (room only) in the two-star hotel Luna costs only £25.50 for each of two people sharing (total cost £174.50-£229.50).

To Budapest, the flights cost £149 (June 9-23) rising to £189, with £40.50 for accommodation at the Hotel Platinus, making the total cost £189.50-£229.50.

● *Campus Travel, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0AG (0171-730 3402).*

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *25*

ASPIRATOR

(b) An antique medical instrument for drawing the pus from abscesses, from the Latin *a-* away from + *spirator* a sucker or blower, *spirāre* to breathe.

DIRHINOUS

(a) Possessing two nostrils. This is a word of supererogation, since all humans and almost all other creatures with noses have a pair of nostrils, unless they are deformed or damaged. From the Greek *di-* two + *rhinos* a nose. But it is a good word for the Insult Apparent: "And you, Sir, are a dirhinous, brachycephalic Mongolian mountain ape."

LEPID

(a) Charming, elegant, amiable, witty, from the Latin *lepidus*, a suitable epithet for the wit of Horace or the charm of Catullus. A suitably obscure word with which to engage your butterfly-hunting friends in conversation, and mystify them by wondering why lepidopterists are themselves so seldom lepid.

DANDIPRAT

(a) A silly little fellow or urchin, nothing to do with *dandy*, but from the French *dandin*, ie a ninny or simpleton. Also 18th-century London slang for a sixpence. A useful word for offending the young.

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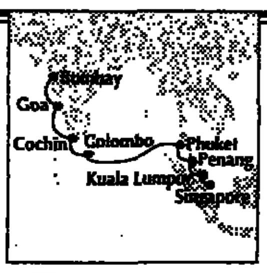

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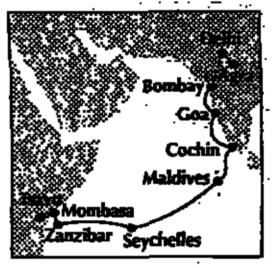

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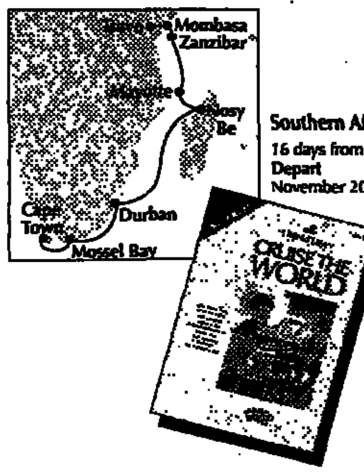

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TRAVEL

TUNISIA: The gems of Berber life in the south are opening up to more tourists, but the old ways survive

By car and camel to desert delights

After establishing itself on Tunisia's eastern coastline among the sites of Roman ruins, tourism is increasingly delving into the desert south, and causing some alarm. Shampoo from German holidaymakers is said to be defiling the hot springs of the oases. International-style hotels have been unimaginatively tacked on to towns such as Tozeur, the date palm and poetry capital of the south, bringing comfortable accommodation to the region but perhaps doing less for the local colour. "*Tous les poètes?*" as one mournful local remarked. "In the hotel kitchens. Serving grilled cutlets where they once composed couplets."

The fact that I did meet a Tunisian poet, sitting among the ruins of Tamerza, an old village abandoned after being destroyed by a flash flood, suggested that tourism had not entirely blunted the country's atmospheric edge.

Tunisia's south is rich in unspoilt villages that are mostly within reach of a sturdy hire car or four-wheel-drive vehicle. The collage of landscapes includes coastal olive groves, precipitous hill villages, date palm oases and the great dunescapes, such as those surrounding Ksar Ghilane, a remote old fort afloat in the sand swells of the Sahara.

From the fort's ramparts, I listened to the desert silence, grateful that I was beyond the long arm of Tunisia's trinketeers. I felt I could well do without their stock-in-trade fossils, their crystallised desert stones (known as sand roses) and their toy camels — miniature mementoes of the majestic, cantankerous beasts that had brought our party to the fort across the wind-sculpted lines of the dunes.

At Tozeur, we dived into the *medina*, the 14th-century old town: a place of cool, deep shadows that fell across intricately decorated brickwork. At once, the *zone touristique* was forgotten. Old men wearing long, cotton *jellabas* and a *tarboosh* (fez) or *chechia* (skullcap) sat in sunlit doorways, their goats and sheep glimpsed in family courtyards. Above us, *degla en-nour* ("fingers of light"), as the best dates are called, hung ripening in a cooling breeze.

"Allah has given us the best dates in Tunisia," said Mohammed, our guide, voicing a claim that we would hear in oasis villages all over the region. "But he has also given us the palm tree, and the palm tree gives us more than just dates. It gives us life. We eat date honey and palm hearts. We make juice from dates, and *laghmi* alcohol from palm leaves. We use palm fibre to make straw hats, shoes and rope. We use the fronds for shade, and we burn the wood for cooking and to heat our *hammams* [Turkish baths]. We use the wood to make gutters, beams, doors, chairs and tables. But we first season it for maybe a year out on the Chott el Djérid."

We crossed the *chott*, a vast, mirage-prone salt flat immediately south of Tozeur, early one morning when the soft light turned it to cobalt. A thousand camels and their attendants, it *is* said, perished in the ooze that lies beneath the *chott*'s thin salt crust when they strayed from the path. Now a ruler-straight causeway carried us without incident to Douz, so-called Gateway to the Sahara.

At the town's renowned *Souk des Animaux*, old men were patting the flanks of camels and inspecting their teeth. "Please, 700 dinar [£450]," a camel seller said in answer to my casual inquiry. Other prices quoted were 350 dinar for a horse, 100 dinar for a sheep, 60 dinar for a goat and nine dinar for a handsome cockerel. But you need to haggle. The market also contained stalls selling clothes, spices, saddles and rugs.

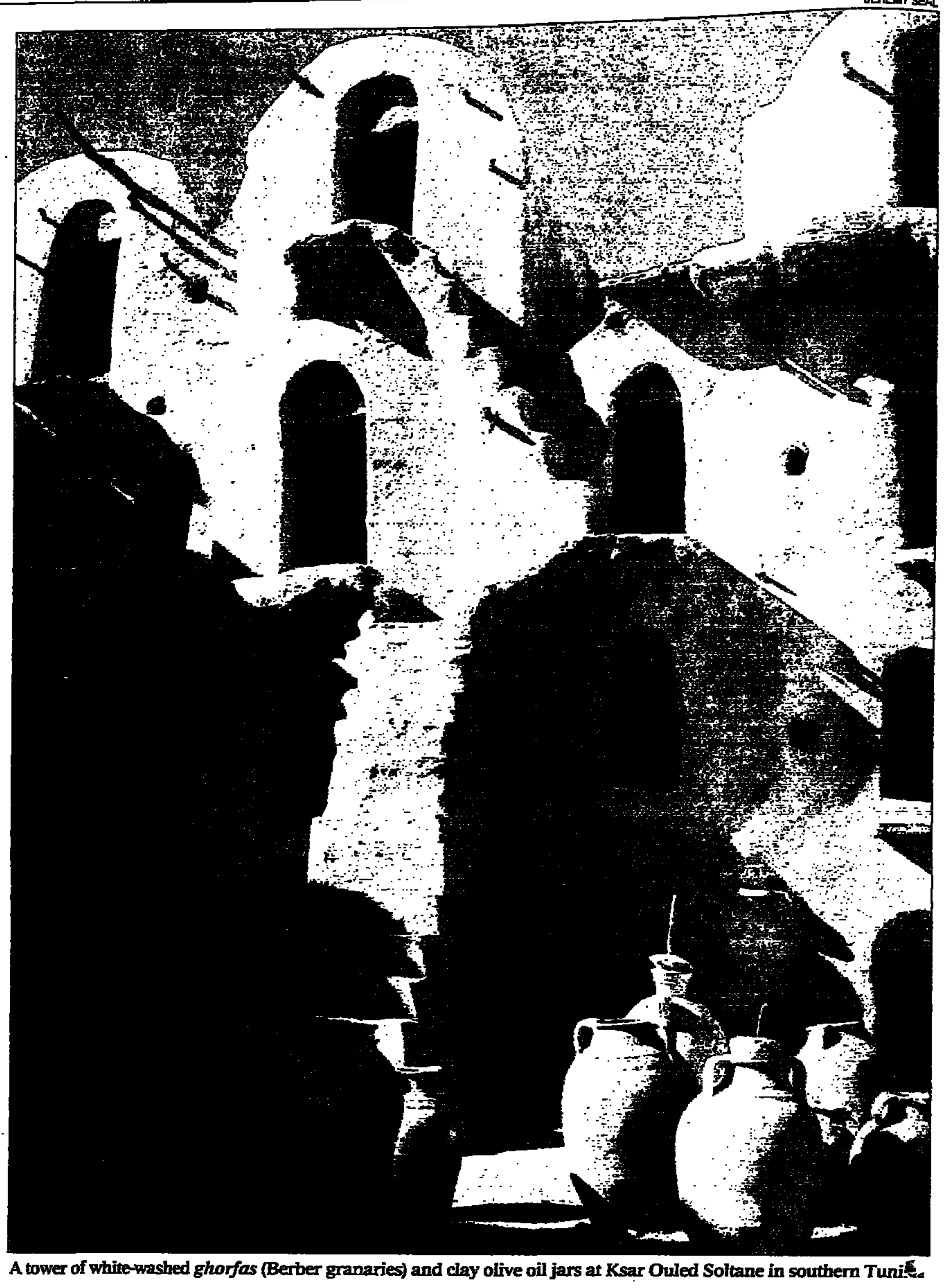
In the office of the *Ecrivain public* (town scribe) at Douz, Ben Yahia Ali Azouz made me a cup of sweet mint tea and told me something of his work. "I write letters in French or Arabic for the town's many illiterates," he explained. "Letters of condolences, legal letters, applications for a visa or a job — or even, perhaps, to express respectful interest in another man's daughter. Little has changed in Tunisia."

That much was clear in the *marabouts* (shrines) containing the sarcophagi of revered village elders; the still-used old *ghorfas* (Berber granaries) at Ksar Ouled Soltane, where an elderly villager merely demanded our delight rather than our dinar as he showed us round; and the sound of drums leading us to a frenzied procession of menfolk following a proud, if apprehensive, young boy dressed in a *jellaba* and *chechia* through a village to his circumcision.

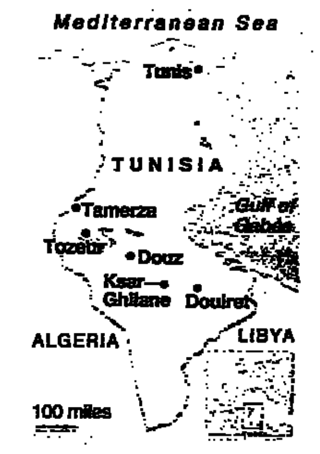
One afternoon, we reached the hillside village of Douiret. The village, a young local named Hussein explained, had been abandoned when piped water and electricity was supplied to the valley below. As we peered into the mosque, examined the old clay olive jars and marvelled at the fish motifs signifying good fortune that decorated the weathered wooden doors, we wondered why everything seemed so beautifully maintained. "This is still our village," said Hussein. "This is where we return to bury our dead. This is where our daughters spend four days in complete darkness in preparation for their weddings."

So much, then, for the impact of trinket bazaars, *zones touristiques* and German shampoo.

JEREMY SEAL


JEREMY SEAL

A tower of white-washed *ghorfas* (Berber granaries) and clay olive oil jars at Ksar Ouled Soltane in southern Tunisia



How to get there

☐ The author was a guest of the Tunisian National Tourist Office, 77a Wigmore Street, London W1H 9LJ (0171-224 5561).

☐ Flights: Tunis Air (0171-734 7644) and GB Airways (0181-897 4000) fly three times a week from Heathrow to Tunis, from £179. Tunis-Tozeur domestic flights, booked through Tunis Air, cost £57 return.

☐ Accommodation: there is a a range of modern hotels, such as the three-star Hotel Palmyre at Tozeur, and four-star Tamerza Palace at Tamerza. Basic desert accommodation, such as Camping Najar Chabaane, at Ksar Ghilane, is also available. Tour specialists include Wigmore Holidays, 122 Wigmore Street, London W1H 9FE (0171-486 4425), which offers a week's package, including flights, B&B, and four-wheel-drive vehicle and driver, from £650 per person.

☐ Reading: *Rough Guide to Tunisia* (Rough Guides, £8.99).

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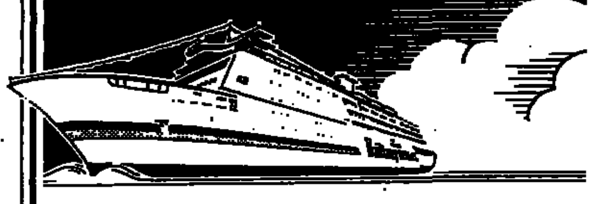

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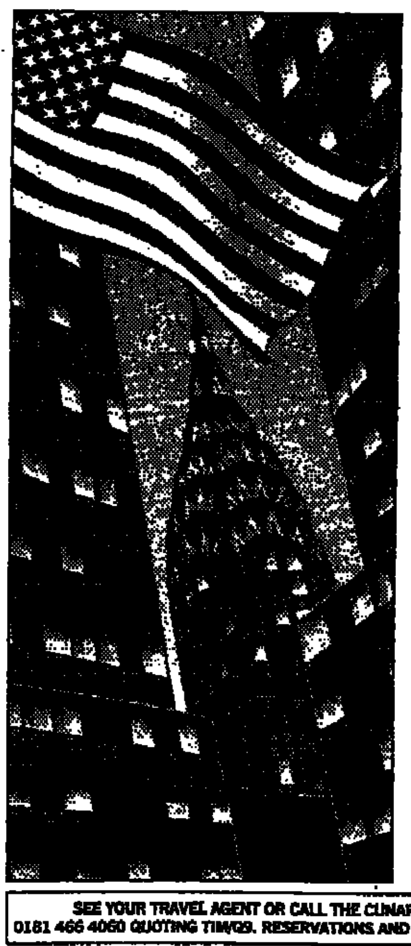

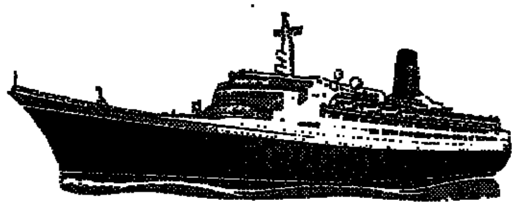

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POLAND: The currency is confusing but the welcome is warm

For a fistful of zlotys

To Poland by coach — the "New Europe" as our brochure billed it. Crossing the border by night from the former East Germany, you enter a dark tunnel of tightly packed silver birch and pine trees which stretch for miles on each side of the road. It's a mysterious introduction to a country just emerging fully to Western eyes from half a century of relative obscurity under Communism.

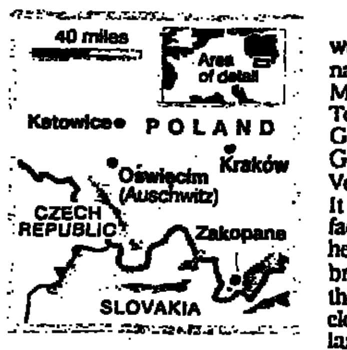
Poland's history is bloody and action-packed: its territory has been claimed by Germany, Russia, the Austro-Hungarian empire and Sweden, and for a while the country disappeared off the map altogether. History is something today's visitor is rarely allowed to lose sight of, but there is also the chance to experience some of the less tragic and turbulent happenings of the 1990s.

We had to reorganise our wallets to cope with the recently devalued zloty: with both old and new notes in circulation, the same item can cost either one new zloty or 10.000 old ones, so familiarity with the decimal point is a distinct advantage. Happily, half a litre of local vodka costs around nine new zloty (£2.50) — the only problem is choosing which delicious flavour to sample, from the clear bison grass, cherry and blackcurrant to honey vodka, the smoothest of all.

Its warming qualities were soon needed. We arrived in Zakopane, Poland's premier mountain resort, to several feet of snow. "Record snowfalls for April since 1948," said Janusz, our Polish guide. But it suited Zakopane. Icicles hung from the eaves like stalactites, every house a Christmas card. The local style of architecture, based on traditional wooden building forms and one of the most distinctive things about the Zakopane region, was developed in the late 19th century by Stanislaw Witkiewicz — his wooden chapel at nearby Jaszczurowka is not to be missed.

We stayed at the no-frills but friendly Start Hotel on the edge of town, but only ten minutes from the centre. The superb soups we were served each evening were welcome after a day outdoors.

For the reasonably energetic and sensibly equipped, there is a good range of walks in the Tatras mountains which rise majestically above the town. Some will take you within skidding distance of the Slovak border, so take your passport. Other paths lead to the summit of Giewont, the "Sleeping Knight" which overlooks Zakopane. At times of crisis he is supposed to rise from his slumber to save Poland from invaders.



A trip to Morskie Oko, a local beauty spot, is highly recommended — the name of this glacial lake means "eye of the sea", as it was once thought that an underground stream led from here, direct to the Baltic Sea. Either walk up to the lake or take a horse-drawn carriage or sleigh, depending on the weather. The latter is not the *Dr Zhivago* experience I had hoped for — it can be a bumpy ride and the drivers stop regularly to scoop up horse manure — but it's lots of fun and the views are breathtaking.

There are plenty of day trips worth taking. First to Kraków, native city of our guide. The Mariacki Church on the Old Town Square, The Rynek Glowny, has a magnificent Gothic altar piece carved by Veit Stoss in the 16th century. It is said that he modelled the faces of the apostles on people he knew. We also enjoyed browsing through the stalls in the Sukiennice, the medieval cloth hall, which yielded garlands of amber, carved wooden figures and intricate embroidery.

Two other trips worth considering are to the salt mines at Wieliczka and to Auschwitz. At Wieliczka you can visit three of the older levels and see some of the fantastically carved chambers, including the Blessed King's Chapel where concerts and masses are held beneath the beautiful salt crystal chandeliers.

Auschwitz, or Oświęcim as the Poles know it, lies 35 miles west of Kraków. A walk round the former concentration camp and museum is a profoundly moving experience, as you would expect, though when you arrive, pulling up in a neat car park, with birds singing in the trees, the sun shining and the cafeteria waiting to serve you, it couldn't seem less sinister. But the cumulative effect of the horrors on display soon becomes overwhelming.

It is not easy to forget how much Poles have suffered in the past, and there is fierce debate over the country's future — but in these times of rapid change, Poland is unpretentious, surprisingly beautiful and very friendly.

CAROLINE SANDERSON

● *The author travelled with New Millennium Holidays, 20 High Street, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3TB (0121-711 2232; fax 0121-711 3652). A ten-day break, including coach travel and seven nights half-board in Zakopane, costs from £109 (£179 in July and August).*

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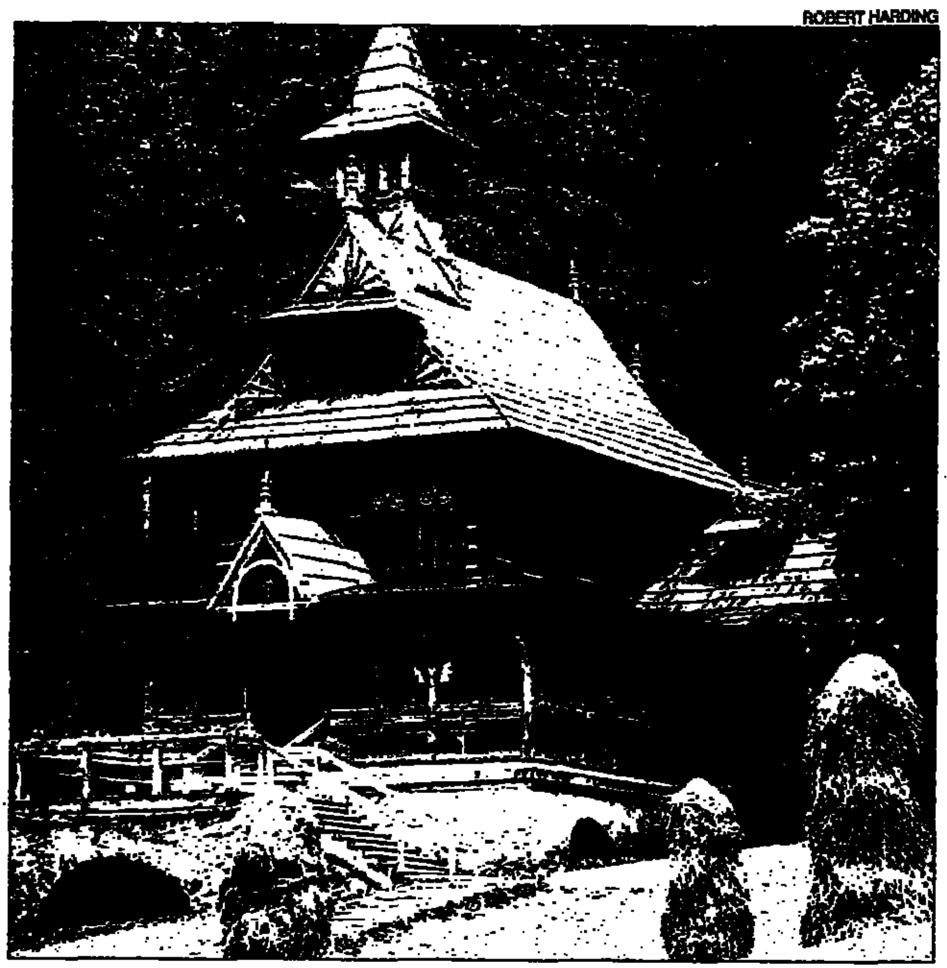

A wooden church near Zakopane is typical of the local fairy-tale style architecture

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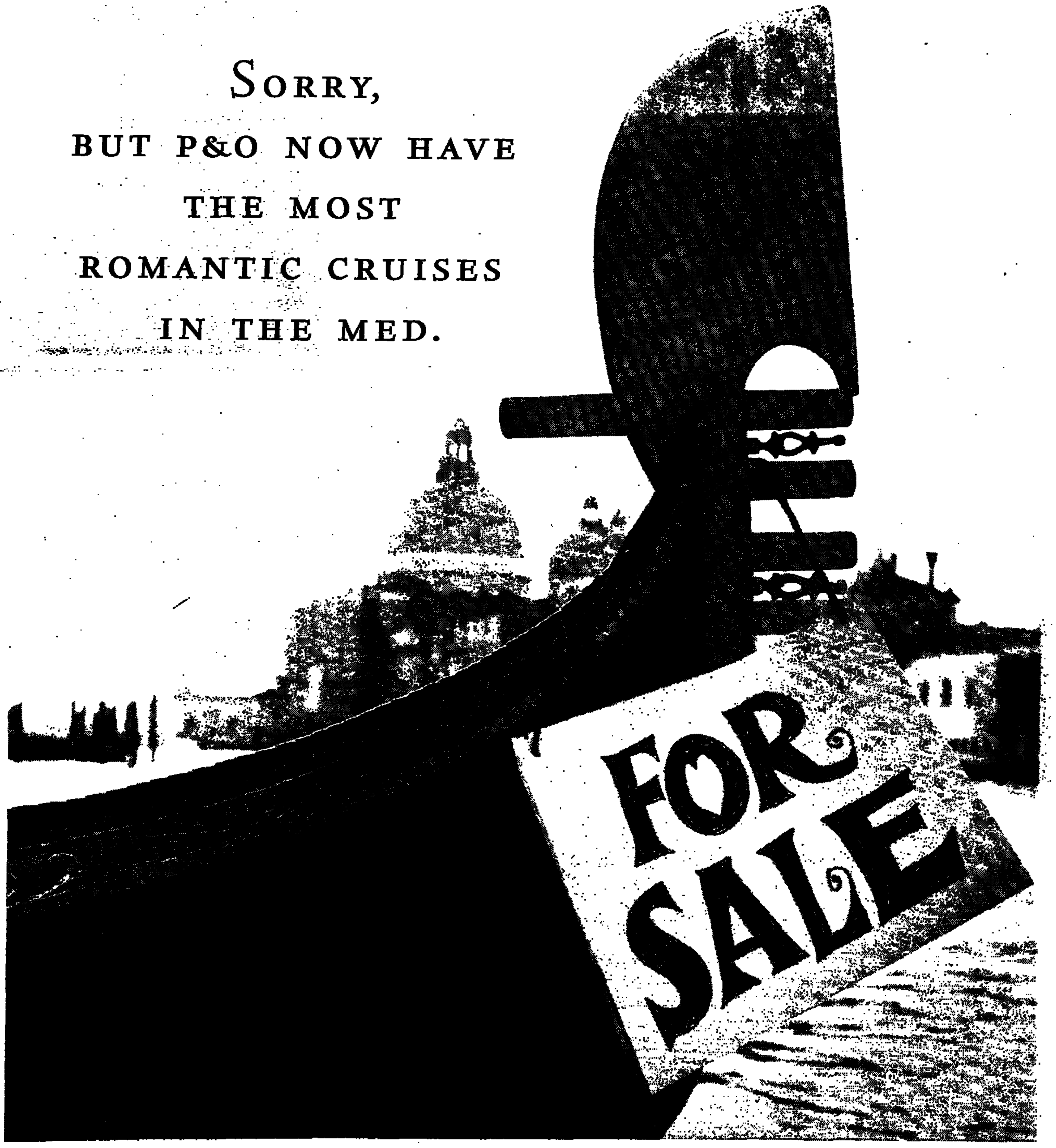

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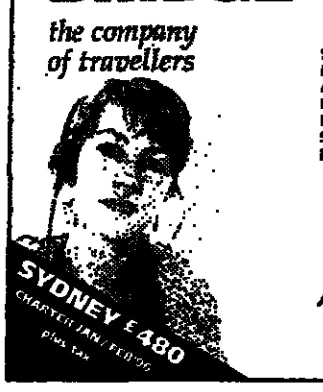

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هكذا من الأصل

NORTH DEVON: An alphabetical scheme points tourists to what is characteristic about local villages

V is for visitors

Ned Prideaux has a handful of mazzard trees in his orchard near the village of Landkey in north Devon. "The mazzards are like cherries, only almost black in colour, twice the size and twice as tasty," he says.

Mr Prideaux, 93, can remember the days when Landkey was a mass of pinkish-white mazzard blossom in late May. But all that has now gone. After the Second World War farmers were encouraged to grub out less economic fruit trees and nearly all the mazzards in the village disappeared.

"In a few years, as the older generation dies off, the word mazzard may come to mean very little in Landkey as new people move in," Danny Hughes says. Mr Hughes is a specialist employed by Devon County Council and Common Ground, an environmental charity, to organise the North Devon Local Distinctiveness campaign, and high on his list of actions is the recreation of a mazzard orchard in Landkey.

The plan to replant mazzards, plus three traditional varieties of local apple, is part of a novel scheme Mr Hughes has devised to draw the attention of both local people and visitors to the richness and diversity of life in the rolling countryside characteristic of north Devon. The scheme is called the Alphabet Parishes project, and it involves 26 villages — one for each letter of the alphabet — in 200 square miles of country bounded by the coast to the north, Exmoor to the east, and the River Torridge to the west.

The parishes have been chosen because they each represent something special, or highly characteristic of the area. To draw attention to the attractiveness of the area and to encourage tourists, Mr Hughes and his colleagues have created a "passport", designed to make the visitor stop, linger and explore.

The passport has to be stamped at a predetermined place in the village — usually the village shop, post office or pub, details of which are given at the foot of each page. Before this, however, the passport holder has to scour the village to find the Alphabet Parishes plaque.

There is a different design for each village and the plaques, most of which have recently been installed on the walls of buildings, have been made by a local potter and reflect an aspect of parish life. For Landkey, not surprisingly, the plaque depicts a mazzard.

The scheme is called the Alphabet Parishes project because each of the villages chooses a letter that refers to some distinctive element of its life. In Landkey the letter is M for mazzard, while in Shebbear the letter is B — for boulder. Under an old oak tree in the centre of the village there is a large boulder that, according to local legend, was dropped by the devil. After dark on November 5 every year local bellringers sound a cacophonous peal on the church bells and then, using crowbars, they turn the boulder over.

In Taddiport L stands for the ancient leper fields, where inmates from the leper hospital in the village worked in the 13th century. It being Devon, fields feature prominently in many of the parish descriptions, such as that for the village of Sheepwash, home of the best-maintained strip fields (S) in the country. They can be seen on the gentle valleyside sloping down to the River Torridge, each marked by a hedge.

The tiny village of Molland on the fringes of Exmoor claims the letter R — for Red Ruby, a famous breed of cattle originally bred there and still exported all over the world. In the nearby village of North Molton you spy the letter I, for iron, as mining for iron, lead and copper played a major part in the history of the village until the early 1800s.

The market town of South Molton, four miles to the south-west, is regarded as the gateway (G) to Exmoor, which lies to the north, and a good base from which to explore north Devon. The town contains many Georgian buildings and some good places to eat.

The name Tarka can mean only one thing to readers of Henry Williamson, and the small town of Great Torrington 15 miles to the west of South Molton boasts the letter T. The 1927 classic *Tarka the Otter* gave rise to a new long-distance footpath, opened in 1992, based on the rivers Taw and Torridge — the "country of the two rivers" — in which the book is set. With the aid of the *Tarka Trail Walkers' Guide*, which includes sections written by Richard Williamson, son of Henry, many of the alphabet parishes can be incorporated into sections of the trail. Useful B&B addresses are given in the guide.

There is also a Tarka Project, whose staff created the Tarka trail and helped Mr Hughes to set up the Alphabet Parishes scheme. The project encourages others to do environmental renewal work. A good example is the plan to clear much of the scrub and bracken that has grown up over much of the 360 acres of Torrington Commons in the 20 years since animals grazed there, and return the area to grass and heathland.

The project also encourages people to visit north Devon for quiet recreation while conserving the natural habitats described by Henry Williamson and promoting environmentally friendly, low-key tourism.

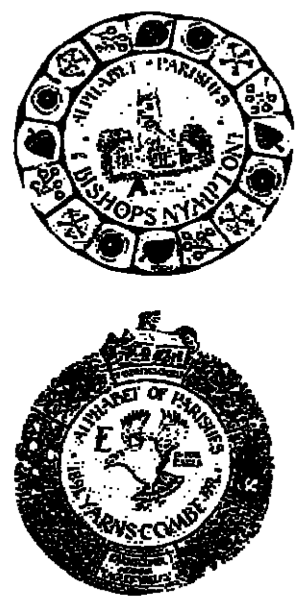
"We want to encourage tourism but avoid creating the sort of tourist blight that has afflicted so many other parts of the UK," says Dr Beverley Trowbridge, an ecologist and manager of the Tarka Project.

"It is the sort of tourism that can also help people who make a living from the area to appreciate the riches of their locality and the surrounding countryside.

"We are encouraging people to walk the Tarka Trail and cycle around. If they stick to their cars we hope they will park them in the villages and go out exploring."

CLIVE FEWINS

Hunt the plaque



In each of the 26 villages taking part in the project, visitors have to look for the parish plaque. Each depicts a different aspect of local life

Fact File

☐ For a copy of the *Alphabet Parishes Passport to North Devon* send £1.95 to The Tarka Country Tourist Association, PO Box 4, Chulmleigh, Devon EX18 7YX (01837 83399). A free guide to Tarka Country will also be included.

☐ *The Tarka Trail — A Walkers' Guide* can be obtained from the above address, at £3.95 post free.

☐ *Accommodation:* South Molton: Whitechapel Manor (01769 573377); Park House Hotel (01769 572610). Chulmleigh: The Fox and Hounds Hotel, Eggesford (01769 580 3451). Chittlehamholt: High Bullen Hotel (01769 540561). Sheepwash: Half Moon Inn (01409 231232). Shebbear: Devil's Stone Inn (01409 281210).

☐ *Where to eat:* South Molton: The Stumbles (01769 547145). East Buckland: Lower Pitt (01598 760243). Winkleigh: The King's Arms (01837 83384); Pophams (01837 83767) lunch only. Great Torrington: Brown's Restaurant (01805 622900).

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Tarka country: the River Torridge winds through the countryside around Great Torrington

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ATTRACTIVE warm, professional lady, 33, seeks caring, fun-loving professional gentleman, 30-40 with VGSOH for sincere relationship to share country walks, cinema, theatre, good restaurants - and France! Photo please. London/ Home Counties. Pls Reply Box 6347.

ATTRACTIVE tall slim, Australian lady, early 50s. I would like to correspond with a retired businessman (integrity is important) with view to holidaying in my country, your country, each year in our respective homes. Please Reply Box 6382.

ATTRACTIVE stylish lady WLTM tall handsome outgoing professional gentleman 40's with GSOH for sincere relationship Croydon/Surrounding Area. Recent photo full details essential. Plse Reply Box 6299

ATTRACTIVE fun-loving lady yachtmaster, n/s, wishes to make friends with yacht, owner optional! Box No 6474.

A warm Asian born Medical professional lady 39 living in Northwest area loves travelling, keep fit and sports seeks a kind hearted unattached good natured man, n/s (36-45yrs) for friendship & love. Race immaterial. Photo and tel no. appreciated. Plse Reply Box No 6489

BEAUTIFUL blonde would prefer Italy, if the gentleman would contact her again. Box 6027.

BEDS. Lady graduate, 52, 5'2", not slim or rich. Divorced, child aged 12. Interests reading, gardening, theatre, countryside walks. Seeks local man 56-60, not tall, free for outings and friendship. Must like children and not be racist. Please Reply to Box No 6270.

BELGRAVIA belle, blonde, beautiful 47, own boss, constantly travelling seeks, strong, successful man with similar rich and varied lifestyle. Walking distance Sloane Street. Box 6339.

BIRMINGHAM based happy stylish blonde, 40s, professional, tall slim very attractive, n/s WLTM tall optimistic caring discerning and successful man (47-55). Please Reply with recent photo to Box No 6096

BLONDE English rose, widow of young company chairman, used to travel and entertaining, seeks a professional gentleman of similar style, city maybe, interests in family life and sports, aged 48-60. London, South East. Box No 5319.

BLONDE high-flyer, sea-nymph, reluctant divorcee 39 seeks n/s high-calibre fellow-enthusiast, initially to share good food in London? Photo plse. Box 6362

BLUE eyed brunette, attractive intelligent professional, warm and tactile with a lively SOH, 32, Cheshire based, seeks similar n/s man to share laughs and life. Please Reply Box 6429.

BRIGHT interesting man and women unattached 30+ invited to supper parties in a country house in Berkshire Day 01753 860640 Eves 01628 73375.

BRUNETTE attractive businesswoman, would like to socialise with genuine successful gentleman 37-53. Likes dining, horse-racing, nice cars, theatre, etc (not all at the same time!). Photo appreciated. East Anglia region. London areas. Box No 6267.

BUBBLY, slim, attractive, Scottish 37 yr old, young in spirit and looks. Happily divorced with 2 lovely children, seeks professional, good looking, 35+ caring gent. GSOH important. Enjoys music, dining out, concerts, travel. Yorkshire based but open to persuasion. Box No 6438.

CARING fun-loving, bright woman, 34, seeks sincere, warm 38-45 n/s man to share good times. London. Please Reply to Box No 6444.

CHARISMATIC, stylish, vivacious brunette, warm, cheerful, sensuous, intelligent, with wide range of cultural interests, seeking lasting relationship with unattached well educated professional man. 50-60. Box 6386

CHEERFUL professional Mum in east Kent, mid 40s, craves caring chap for congenial company and conversation. Please Reply to Box No 6326.

CHESHIRE Feminine, fair, slim, n/s, young 40s, equally happy in hiking boots or evening dress. Mozart to Guns n Roses. WLTM similar male, tall, good presence, romantic, caring, optimistic. GSOH essential, photo appreciated. Box No 6533.

CHESHIRE based, friendly, fun-loving, foolhardy female, 48, seeks merry, mirthful & mellow man for friendship, food & fun. Interests include, tennis, theatre, travel and tete-a-tete. How can you resist? Box 6536.

CHLOE, 62, in Herts seeks a n/s Daphnis with GSOH write with Link word to Box No 6494.

CITY prof attractive tall slim young lady sks slm sgl gent 29-38 only. Surrey. Box No 6206

CLASSIC early 1950's model. Immaculate condition. Exceptional design quality. Light paintwork, dark trim. Motors around Worcs. Glos. Cotswolds available for longer distances. To be cherished by discriminating collector of similar vintage. Specifications: Box No 6075.

CONSIDERED stunning. Tall, slim female, in good shape. A remarkably young 50. Independent, successful media career. Warm, gentle, supportive. Enjoys a sophisticated, relaxed life style. Seeks lover/soul mate An urbane man who enjoys books, films, theatre, eating in/ out. Who's sensitive, loyal, with enough of an edge to be interesting. London. Photo essential/ returned. Box 6441.

COUNTRY living/loving but no bumpkin. Tall prof. lady 50's taking early retirement soon seeks emotionally financially free gentleman (probably brogues tweeds occasional D.J. type) to start whole new happy life pref. in S. Scotland or N. England. Box No6200.

COUNTRY-loving widowed lady 61, with small well-behaved dog seeks gentleman 65-70ish, pref in Scotland but anywhere in the country if the right gentleman. Please reply box 6305.

COVENTRY lively, attractive, Jung 40s female, author/ teacher seeks someone special. Please Reply to Box No 6869.

DARK, ambiguous beauty, late 20s, literate, seeks a wonderful man. London area. Please Reply to Box No 6244.

EDINBURGH Strikingly attractive woman: long dark hair, dark eyes. Grad who is prof. employed Seeks intelligent resourceful handsome man over 40 years Box No 5900

ELEGANT, feminine lady with GSOH, seeks sincere, caring, intelligent, strong minded man, 48-55 for laughter and love. London/H.Counties Box 6324

EUROPEAN (EEC) woman, London based Anglophile, professional artist, 54 yrs old, 1.62m, slender, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks male friend under 62 yrs, considerate, intellectually and visually aware. Please Reply to Box No 6560.

EXTREMELY attractive elegant, blonde,refined educated slim lady, Late 50s of highest integrity, GSOH, n/s. Seeks educated gentleman with honesty and loyalty to be my best friend. Businessman or retired. Letter with photo plse to Box No 6543

FEMININE smiling lady Jane 60 yrs young, n/s, slim, fit, self supporting, WLTM her Tarzan, not to swing in the trees, but to enjoy glorious Gloucestershire, hopefully in your Land Rover or my BMW. Box No 6349.

FRENCH, charming young 40's with zest of life dreams of tall, cultured, intuitive & caring soulmate. Maybe you? Please Reply to Box No 6437

GENTLEMEN 50-70 we need you! Lovely ladies 50 plus slim attractive and intelligent. Telephone Watercolours 9am - 9pm Mon - Sun 0171 629 3185.

GIRLS GALORE 30's - short of guys for my June bash. Private house. Great parties monthly. Invitation ONLY. We're all attractive, lively people "Pub. Sch. career profs, London homes". Attractive guys (with hair) mid 30's/ early 40's, "who identify" Call Patricia 0181 392 9009 Wknds/eves

GLAMOROUS sophisticated intellectual woman W.L.T.M. successful sophisticated sexy man 50ish discerning diner drinker smoker in other words a bon vivant! London area. Photo app. Reply to Box 6387

HAPPY, independent woman wants similar man who also wants (not needs) relationship. East Midlands. Photo appreciated. Plse Reply Box No 6534

HELP - Rescue me from the doldrums of single life in London! Warm, genuine, petite, humorous 38 yr old female would like to meet caring, successful, unattached male 36-44 with sense of humour to share the ups and downs of London life. Photo appreciated. Box No 6587.

I am a delightfully romantic free spirit - 49 years old, seriously attractive - tall, slender with a great sense of style and humour! I am tactile, warm, intelligent, aware, artistic, open-minded. I love Mozart, Bach, Puccini, Mahler, Van Morrison, hugs and intimacy. I seek deep communication at all levels, a special partner, lover, to share New Year's Eve 1999 and much more before! Write to me with your dreams and visions and a recent photo please to Box No 6498.

INDEPENDENT professional 44 year old lady, London based, seeks intelligent gentleman for friendship. Recent photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 6237.

INTELLIGENT, good-looking, active and slim blonde widow with style living central Southern area, looking for a Prof/retired tall businessman 55/66 who will share her many indoor/outdoor interests (too many to list) with tlc. Fun loving, extremely adaptable and fond of good conversation in exciting locations. Photo ensures reply. Box No 6583

INTELLIGENT, attractive, professional thirty-something lady with GSOH seeks tall man (N/S, 35-45), with similar attributes, to help make it a fun summer. Photo appreciated (but not essential; being a nice guy is!). N. London/Herts/Cambs pref. Please Reply to Box No 6201.

INTELLIGENT attractive, public school educated, left wing, 55, woman wants someone wholesome, emotionally literate, in Herts, who enjoys walking, with whom to find physical and emotional compatibility and love. Please reply Box 6520.

IRREVERENT, intelligent, sentient, good-looking, divorced, politically incorrect, ready to shift to interdependence, somewhat anglicised, continental woman living in London with heaps of casual flair, interested in original thought, empathy, authenticity, aesthetics, comfort & joy (disinterested in pets, pubs, wining and dining for the sake of it) seeks solo man 55+ with presence, spark who is erudite, stable, tall, sufficiently mature to sneer at games people play & unafraid to aim for intimacy not exclusively physical. Lean figure, full head of hair not at all essential. Box No 6251

IS there life down here? - 24 yrs redhead returning South - needs fun, friendship and excitement - photo ensures reply. Please Reply to Box No 6563.

I'VE been described as a female Richard Branson and I'm looking for my male counterpart to sweep me off my feet. I am 40, slimmish, blonde & said to be very attractive. I like wining & dining, holidays and travelling, theatre, dinner parties and dogs. SW London/Surrey preferred. Please Reply with photo & tel no. to Box No 6418

KIND, caring, very fit lady in early 50s, seeks professional gentleman 45-60. Photo please. Reply to Box No 6275.

KIND educated elegant & attractive, single prof female, mid 30s with European outlook, WLTM similar unattached gentleman for romance and travel. Must have GSOH and have either educated English or continental prof background, 32-42. London area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply Box 6556.

LADY living in Glos. 50s, likes gardening, travelling, films. WLTM man similar age, similar interests. Would love to visit Italian gardens June. Box 6407

LADY 49 widowed professional woman intelligent good sense of humour, great company - likes travel dining out - theatre - long walks seeks unattached male 50-60 years, friendship possible relationship no fee to meet contact Watercolours 0171 629 3185 9am - 9pm Mon-Sun or write in and enclose photograph all replies forwarded on to Elizabeth.

LADY 61 young, non driver, widow, slim, attractive, tall, solvent seeks considerate gentleman Oxon/London. Box 6374.

LAUGHTER & romance needed by fun-loving, fit, lady, 50, with "little tie!". Enjoys sport. Own business. Cotswolds. Caring, romantic gentlemen, pleeeese write to Box No 6311

LIVELY goodlooking, sensual, slim Dutch bachelor. Kent based, 50 years young, loves the theatre, music, art, eroticism. Seeks a soulmate - friendship with an interesting, sensual, younger female, who has a deep understanding of her desires and passions. Please Reply to Box No 6566.

LIVELY English widow in SW France (willing relocate) seeks male companion 60-70 to share life, laughter, driving & glorious views. Interested in music, art, books. Slim, casually elegant, but very happy in gardening clothes and cook's apron! Please Reply to Box No 6504

LIVELY petite, professional, early 60s, London weekdays, Warwickshire w/ends, seeks amusing, intelligent n/s man to share her enthusiasm for the arts and for the countryside. Please Reply to Box No 6276.

LIVELY, caring, sensual W.Mids mature FM Grad, seeks perceptive, loving n/s man 48+. Please Reply to Box No 6564

LONDON & Kent based, creative but pragmatic businesswoman. I'm an attractive, stylish, green-eyed blonde in 40's, happily divorced with no ties, wishing to meet an affluent, entrepreneurial male of similar age (to early 50's) for friendship & enjoyment of life. Interests include socialising, entertaining, gardening, countryside, interior design, architecture & antiques. Like-minded? Please reply with photo & tel no's to Box No 6322

LONDON based lady, 60, liberal progressive, with joi de vivre, bi lingual, seeks open ended friendship with gentleman similar orientation and traditional moral values. Box No 6565.

LONDON lawyer, pretty, witty, occasionally Jewish seeks successful, caring man 43-60. Please Reply to Box No 6265.

LOOKING for Pongo. Beautiful independent lady, 29, seeks tall, educated, honest man to share good and bad times. Please Reply to Box No 6832.

LOVELY American lady in USA, 39, 5'7" of English lineage, seeks well educated gentleman for relationship /marriage in England. Reply to Box No 6261

LUSCIOUSLY large, lively lady (L yrs) longs for longterm relationship with lustful lover living in London area. Box No 6210.

MAN wanted 58-70 friendship /marriage lady 48, English, currently U.S.A. coming home. G.S.O.H. essential. Music, theatre, travel, G. Food/wine, animal lover. Write with pic Please Reply to Box No 6505

MEET attractive, sexy women at London singles' parties. MEET 'N' EAT 071 629 5534

ME: Unmarried, lovely, lively, fit and active oriental lady (39), n/s, well-travelled, cultured, varied interests, Kent Based. You: Kind, loving, sophisticated, cosmopolitan, n/s professional, marriageable, family-minded, 40-48, over 5ft 8in, with own home and car. Photo please (returnable). Box 6274

MUSIC-LOVING female graduate - rather special - early 50's, divorced, attractively slender, gentle, caring and sensitive; seeks similar male. Photo &/or Avon area a bonus! Please Reply to Box No 6205.

NEWCASTLE Are you an intelligent, attractive, articulate, romantic optimist with a GSOH, keen to share life's many pleasures with a young 45-yr old 5'7", slim, independent professional lady with varied interests, honest, assertive, loyal, sensitive & tactile. Box 6481.

OVER 50!! Gentleman in the Midlands looking for stylish and sophisticated women Elite Introductions' special offer for 14 days, we have over 290 ladies waiting to meet you. call for appt 0121 386 3444

PART TIME position offered by 40 something, n/s, petite, fit, attractive, politically incorrect, independent, intellectual lady to discerning gentleman, 5'10"+, own hair. VGSOH with means. Intelligence, stamina and favoir faire for idyllic interludes. London/South East. Box 6413.

PART Time position offered in London Area to tall, Athletic and very caring man 38-45 with good sense of fun, for tall, slim, pretty, fit, enchanting and loving female with a view hopefully, to full time employment. Photo appreciated. Box 6203.

PETITE dark haired attractive 38 Sally Field lookalike seeks tall Catholic/COE, considerate professional European man under 45. Must have GSOH & enjoy countryside & time together. Recent photo pls. Box No 6343.

PRETTY petite Japanese woman, 48, looking for man who born 5th of April, 1944. Please write with recent photo to Box 6390.

PROFESSIONAL, well travelled lady, 32, active, loves outdoor life, cycling, wind surfing, riding, dogs, barbecues, dinner parties, hates discos and large crowds seeks successful guy, 32-40. Surrey. Box No 6302

SENSATIONAL stunning, sophisticated creature (ex-air hostess, ex-model turned academic), 38, seeks affluent, articulate hedonist as play-mate, companion, friend. London/Heathrow. Letter and photo please to Box No 6255.

SENSUAL quality feminine lady. Well travelled, positive, intel, style, witty, all sports & family life, looking for understanding, loving, lasting relationship 40s. Photo essential. Cheshire but prepared to travel. Box 6446.

SEXY self-sufficient, unconventional fun-loving lady seeks successful Indiana Jones/ Lohengrin mix. Love me, love my cat. Please Reply Box 6556.

SINCERE attractive female seeks tall n/s male 33-40. Interests incl animals & amateur theatre. Letter & recent photo plse. ALA. NW London based. Box 6418

SLIM attractive lady, mid 50s, Bedford, enjoys arts and walking, seeks caring gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 6364.

SLIM stylish refined widow c London young 62 seeks smart companion gent 64+ under 5'9" caring solvent travel music n/s, any nat. Box No 6522

TWO fun loving career girls want gregarious and adventurous 28+ guys for dinner, theatre, outdoor sports. SOH essential. W.London. Reply to Box 6554

SOCIABLE sophisticated, independent, attractive, London based lady, 40 something, seeks intelligent, successful, cosmopolitan man with hight (6ft), hair and humour for joie de vivre. Please Reply Box 6434.

SPATCH-Cocked pheasant devised by R. Williams. Stocking clad "game bird" in Surrey would like to swap her recipe with chef in Wiltshire who wrote with his menu "food fit for the Gods". You gave incorrect contact number but if you would like to cater to the needs of this enticing dish, then meet your fate by either giving correct number, address in which to send an invite. Box No 5889.

SUCCESSFUL, professional, attractive, elegant lady, just 40 seeks unattached, solvent, attractive intelligent man for good times and who knows? Philanderers and teachers need not apply Photo appreciated. Londonish. Reply Box No 6301

SULTRY black female 29, 5'8". no ties seeks 6' affluent cultured white businessman 32-47 for slow dancing, dawn kisses, fun and permanent relationship. London. Reply to Box No 6571

SWISS-BASED expat: attractive, affectionate, outgoing, well-travelled prof. lady, young 52, fluent French and flair for entertaining, enjoys music, theatre, travel, sailing, country walks and log fires, wanting to return to UK (preferably SW or Cotswold), seeks special, caring, cultured gentleman, 50-65, n/s, financially secure, for lasting relationship. On holiday in UK in July. Please send photo and tel. no to Box No 6540

TALL attractive, independent brunette, lives in SW London works in city, WLTM a n/s professional 40-50 with GSOH who enjoys wining, dining, theatre, travelling etc. Photo essential. Please Reply Box 6440.

TALL, slim, Dutch and different, attractive, independent lady, late 40s, fond of animals, countryside, food and laughter. W.L.T.M. good looking, well spoken, solvent chap for the usual reasons. South. Photo please. Please Reply Box 6384.

TITIAN haired, witty and creative London woman with a passion for opera, mid-30's, 5'8", successful and solvent, into theatre, wine bars, tennis, skiing, golf and watching sport, seeks like-minded male for conversation, laughter and love. Please Reply to Box No 6208

VERY attractive blonde actress 30s, no ties, warm and tactile, loves travel. London based seeks affluent amusing sincere soulmate for marriage or long-term relationship. Photo app. Please reply to Box No 6378

VERY good-looking tall brunette 27 wanting to meet tall attractive seriously rich man 30-43 who's searching for that special woman to share everything with. Photo essential. London area. Plse reply Box No 6202

VERY young 30, professional female, slim, very pretty, hippish, gsoh, joyously hedonistic, warm, intelligent. Seeks similarly modest London male. Photo please. Box No 6500.

VIVACIOUS brunette 40s slim intelligent, chic, world travelled, solvent, amusing WLTM charming outgoing successful gentleman who knows how to enjoy the finer things in life. London Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6551

WARM, funny, intelligent, lovely, sociable, refreshing, mischievous, SOH. Loves: Polo, racing, riding, shooting, walks, labradors, theatre, opera & summer calendar events. WLTM likewise male. Please Reply to Box No 6178.

WE'RE amazed our beautiful & intelligent 32 yr old friend is single witty dynamic males respond to Box 6398.

WESSEX wench who is forty six, fit, 5ft 7in, free, fair, affluent & I hope fun. WLTM man who is kind, witty, well educated & well heeled to share pleasures and passion. Photo and letter please to Box No 6521.

WHERE are you? 6ft 2ish gentleman aged 32-40. We keep missing each other! Both: single, no ties, international horizons, very successful, lots of hobbies/friends, loving, affectionate - seeking sustainable chemistry and romance/nest building activities. You: solid build, fit, sporty, caring yet dominant and willing to tame... Me slim, 5ft 9in, fit, feminine, good cook, own brain yet long to be submissive to a sensitive man who likes to wear the trousers! Photos exchanged. Please Reply to Box No 6492.

WOMAN of substance. North York based, non smoking, professional, early 50s, feminine with elegance, intellect, charm and wit, well travelled, wide interests, seeks compatible gentleman to mid 50s for friendship and laughter. Please write with photo to Box No 6476.

WOULD gentleman, 40-50yrs, tallish, like to join lady plus labrador on walks, Wilts countryside (and possibly more). Both dog and lady have excellent pedigrees, are fit, sleek, attractive, intelligent, good natured, dark haired and have big brown eyes. Antiques, good food and wine appreciated. Genuine replies please, to a genuine lady. Box 6303

GENTLEMEN

ABSOLUTELY fabulous woman who likes garlic, Scotsmen, France, sought by cheerful, solvent author. 'Outstanding' says S.Times. Box No 6108

A CREATIVE, romantic, but practical 39yr old, kind, honest & caring gentleman with own travel company and interests incl. wine, cooking, photography, skiing, watersports, books, countryside, seeks pretty, special, presentable, well-educated homely lady of any nationality to 36 yrs for a close and mutually sincere relationship in/near London. Photo appreciated. Box No 6469

ADROIT tall, dark, handsome Berks based Prof Scot (40), a sincere gregarious sporty, witty optimist WLTM stylish, v. attractive special female Perhaps like the opportunities appear but the magic is missing. Do you have the magic? Photo please! Reply to Box No 6568

ARE you attractive, slim, well educated, aged 36 to 48 and full of zest for life? If so, this 56 year old (looks years younger) fit, successful, cultured company director, francophile, skier, globetrotter, would love to meet you to share future travels and hopefully romance and much more. London based and West Country w/e, but would travel any distance for the right person. Will you be that special lady? Box 6175.

ARE you an attractive lady living in or near South West, in her 40s who is independent and enjoys life but who knows that without a relationship, there is something missing. I am a successful, tall, professional young 50s with many interests who enjoys dining in and out and being outdoors. I am sincere caring and affectionate and looking for someone to love. Please send photo. Box 6330.

ARE you an attractive 37-49 honest and sincere lady without any ties, looking for a lasting relationship? If so, this 50 yr old male 5'8" tall, living on Surrey/Hants border WLTM you. Photo, tel no appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6480

ASIAN Doctor, 35, would like to meet 25-34 female for friendship and weekend outings this summer. Box No 6490.

A Single successful sensitive, sporty, self starter, savant and salutary saint, 34, seeks slim, stylish, sensual, smart, special sweetheart. Suspend this surreptitious suspense and send details for surprise. Box 6452.

ATTRACTIVE articulate businessman, 58, 6ft, grey hair, slim, fit, n/s, widower, very much missing a woman to share life with, seeks, good looking, loving female to be my partner and best friend. Must have elegance and intellect with GSOH. My interests are music (ex professional musician), theatre, cinema, dining out, travel and photography. West Country based (Bristol area) but would travel for the right woman. Letter with photo will guarantee reply. Box No 6253

ATTRACTIVE well travelled professional, young looking early 40's, 5'11", fit, sporty, GSOH, easy going but positive, adventurous, unpretentious seeks bright nice-looking intelligent feminine lady. London area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6464

ATTRACTIVE successful 6' n/s professional, seeks good looking witty lady 28-36, based London. Sailing, skiing, walking and travel interests a plus. Please Reply to Box No 6169 with photo and phone number

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, slim, affluent M/Dir. Late forties, just out of a relationship, enjoys sport, travel and the luxuries of life would like to get together with like minded female. Photo essential. Box No 6362.

GENTLEMEN

ATTRACTIVE executive youth (47). Cumbrian locality, seeks pretty sparkling - professional woman 35-45 to indulge, pamper and share off duty hours. Are you the one? CV please to Box No 6450

ATTRACTIVE articulate man, 30s, literate, seeks dark bohemian beauty. Please Reply to Box No 6332

CARING, honest, sincere, sensitive, successful, professional Jewish male with GSOH, 40s, living central London, whose interests include, but are not only, theatre, cinema and sport. They will take second place to you, a slim, attractive, discerning female appreciative of these qualities as you too have, and wish to share them. Please Reply to Box No 6422.

CENTRAL London. Attractive male, 41, adventurous, ambitious, n/s, VGSOH, 5'11", blonde, fit, solvent, divorced, independent. WLTM a wild girl, 30-40 of same nature for having fun. Photo and letter please. Reply to Box No 6408.

CHESHIRE/Midlands, easy going 29 years, 6'3" (apparently - "very good looking but doesn't know it"). Educated and solvent seeking respectable attractive lady (of any race) for interesting adventures and romance. Please send letter and photo. Happy to travel. Box No 6531.

CHRISTIAN Widower, 67, fit, active, healthy, financially sound, university educated WLTM a continental widow 50+ (perhaps Hungarian or Czech) attractive, with a definite religious disposition. (Catholic or Protestant). Photo essential. Reply Box No 6266

CITY Director, 30s, slim, athletic, unpretentious, considerate, supportive, loyal and honest, with legendary S.O.H. and own charger. W.L.T.M. undistressed damsel with good S.O.H. and figure to match to share the victories and set backs. (No dragons too small!) Exchange photos. A.L.A. Box No 6336.

CLASSY lady sought by tall professional male (40) with view to lasting relationship. Interests, country pursuits, eating out & cinema Southern area Photo please Box No 6463.

CO. DIRECTOR Workaholic, 39, 6' brown hair and eyes. Graduate, non smoker. I am affluent, adventurous and somewhat unconventional. I love the outdoors, scuba diving and real travel (not package holidays!!) I WLTM an attractive, adventurous, intelligent lady 30-40, with no ties, to share leisure, recreation, real travel and perhaps the rest of my life. Please Reply Box 6361.

COSMOPOLITAN gent. British, semi retire. 55 5'6". Interests travel literature (poetry) reading music walk nature, live in London. Seeks attractive, romantic lady to share life with a lot of love. London or near Plse Reply with photo Box 6119

CREATIVE professional man, successful Oxbridge graduate (55), no ties, active and energetic, interests include classical music, travel, theatre, arts generally, socialising, gardening, sport, and keeping fit. Busy lifestyle, but now reformed workaholic. Would like to meet articulate and intelligent warm-hearted professional/academic woman, for caring relationship and marriage if compatible; preferably willing to consider starting or extending a family. Photo appreciated and returned. London and SE area. Please Reply to Box No 6488.

DESIGNER, 48, short dark and extrovert. Artistic n/s and with GSOH. Solvent and looking for a partner to share life. Ideal would be a lady with 2 children 9-11 living London. Holiday this summer with my daughters 10-12 as first step perhaps to a long term serious relationship Photo appreciated. Box 6396.

DOCTOR single, tall, slim, good looking, cultured and highly qualified, late 30s, busy life style, would like to meet sensual, tactile, elegant lady, 25-45 with vivid imagination and daring for hassle free mutually stimulating conversation, exchange of thoughts, maybe relationship, maybe not. Please Reply to Box No 6537.

EARLY thirties, lean, fit, country guy, looking for romance, seeks lady to share good things in life. Oxford area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5984.

EASY GOING, amiable guy, 28, handsome, well-travelled and educated, seeks fun-loving, attractive female, 20-35 for laughter and romance. Photo ensures reply London/Home Counties. Box No 6236.

ELIGIBLE professional, sensitive male, 30, solvent, and well educated, enjoys life and sailing, seeks bright, affectionate and independent lady. London area but will travel. Box No 6367.

ESTABLISHED 51 yr old businessman W.L.T.M. very attractive, slim, 35-45 female for lifes enjoyment and possible romance. Recent photo will be returned. Merseyside area. Chemistry is what counts! Please Reply to Box No 6319.

EX. Naval man (43) at present taking a degree at London University. Enjoys the finer things in life. Wishes to meet a cerebral, fun loving woman with a view to lasting relationship. Photograph appreciated Please Reply to Box No 6109.

FIT & sporty attractive male, well educated & caring 5'7", 32, WLTM attractive, affectionate fun loving lady for togetherness & fun. Photo please. Bristol & surrounding areas. Please Reply to Box No 6264

FLYING golfing gent: tall, good looking & youthful 48 with no ties, seeks vivacious 30s lady (not 1930s!) to adore & be adored by. Laughter essential. Photograph please. London/ Home Counties. Box No 6314.

FUN, young (38), many interests/ sport, well travelled but down to earth London based executive who works to live, warm personality & sincere, not lonely nor in a hurry. WLTM like minded young lady who enjoys life and is willing to share. Letter and photo plse. Box 6400.

GLOS Male, own business, 39, no ties, artistic and caring, likes sport, nature & culture, seeks similar lady, children, pets welcome. A.L.A. Box No 6312

HAPPY easy going Aquarian, fit, n/s, young 42, likes cinema, cooking, opera, socialising & long country walks seeks professional lady. Photo ensures reply. Please Reply Box 6333

HARD working and successful managing director. Based in Norfolk, good looking, caring, sensitive and honest. 35 years old and still a Bachelor! Literally has everything but the girl: Nice home, great car! Enjoys wining and dining. Looking for attractive and classy lady with GSOH to distract him from work. Informative letter with recent photo will ensure a reply. Box No 6526.

IF you like rock as much as opera; are still trying to ski parallel, and have no ties, you may enjoy my company Young 38, FRICS, no surprises, seeks Supergirl. N.Surrey. Box 6268

INDEPENDENT prof man late thirties non smoker medium build WLTM lady with interest in sport, cinema, dining, days out. N.West/Wales. Please Reply to Box No 6262

INTELLIGENT, shy, sensitive, giving, n s, girl from good family sought. 20s-30s. Older, highly eligible, strong, gentle Oxbridge man, widowed will really love and look after you Village nr university. Be brave: it will be worth it. Box No 6401.

JAPANESE lady sought by 43 year old good-looking, very genuine Englishman, fit, slim, loyal, caring, fun-loving, 5'7", non smoker. Enjoys golf, restaurants, good things in life. First ever ad. Box No 6344.

KENT based company director, 40, slim, fit, 6'1", wacky sense of humour, likes most sports, especially tennis and motorsport, seeks slim, fit, fun-loving girl with a slightly dominant nature who still feels at home in a little black dress and would enjoy being pampered and spoilt, 26-36. Photo and phone no. please. Box No 6389.

LESLEY (Guildford postmark, 20 March, two children), thankyou for your letter (Box 4549, 18 & 25 March). A telephone number would be appreciated. Please Reply to new Box No 6185.

LONDON based easy going male GSOH 47 seeks younger female for friendship & laughter, children welcome. Box 6293.

MAHLER lover, professional male, 35, seeks non smoking, attractive, well educated lady to share all the good things in life, not just music. In addition to being stylish, sexy and spontaneous she will be a romantic with her feet on the ground and a good sense of humour. Please reply with photo to Box 6304.

PROFESSOR of law, 61 yrs, 181 cm, divorced, would like to love and protect passionate, slim lady for ever. Photo apprec. Please Reply to Box No 6300.

MISCHIEVOUS, sophisticated, open, handsome chap, 46, 6', divorced, grown-up kids, (done that), own company. WLTM more busy, bright, independent, n/s, pretty, slim, leggy, (career?) women who sometimes fancy having an uncomplicated, undemanding, secure, kind, amusing, gentle male around, with whom to share wine, walks, films, concerts and generally misbehave. Photo please returned with mine. Bristol/anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 6425.

MARRIAGE/family minded, traditional values male, single, intelligent, slim, successful, dependable, considerate, GSOH; interests the arts/ travel, seeks dark-haired, slim, intelligent female. Photo appreciated. Box No 6273.

NAPOLEON seeks Josephine to conquer world with. Could you walk a mile, plough a field, ski Kitzbuel, spend fall in New York? Under 40, 5'4", rated, and unencumbered (me too). Avon/Glouc/Gwent area. Please Reply to Box No 6569.

NORTH-WEST 50s+, 6', good-looking, fit, n/s, still enjoys sport, likes wining, dining, travel etc. After 2 yrs in the doldrums seeks tallish, fair, classy lady to accompany on trade outings & much more - for long term relationship. Photo guarantees reply & return. Please Reply to Box No 6271

NOTTINGHAM 34 yr old single male, nearly qualified lawyer, not too serious, who enjoys walking, music, cinema, the arts and good food would like to share interests with like minded female. Please reply, preferably with photo, to Box No 6197.

PRESIDENT Clinton look-a-like, solvent, late 30s, athletic, fit, single & not too serious wishes to befriend sexy beauty for companionship wit & laughter. Photo and letter appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6477.

REASONABLY well bred, educated & heeled, gentle widower, slim, enjoys fine art, riding, sailing, motoring. WLTM, quiet elegant, confidant for harmonious relationship. RSVP. Box 6435.

ROMANTIC good-looking lonely caring young 69 widower GSOH WLTM attractive 50-65 widow for friendship holidays love romance. Classical music food, wine, travel, non smoker, Wiltshire. Photo would help. ALA. Plse reply Box No 6309

SINCERE honest male, 34, seeks bright non smoking 30s woman to share country walks, pub lunches and life's usual pleasures. Surrey/London. Please Reply to Box No 5956.

SOULMATE sought by tall dark city based male 31, to share fun, laughs and the good things in life. WLTM fun loving attractive female 25-35 for romance and adventure. SW London. Please Reply to Box No 6524.

SUCCESSFUL good natured city professional, 41 years, 5'10", enjoys travel, theatre, cinema, good food and fun. Seeks slim, attractive, sincere, intelligent lady, 23-33 years (non smoker), who is looking for romance and possibly a permanent relationship. Please reply with recent photograph to Box No 6410.

SUMMER Romance? Man, 40, Oxford graduate, Managing Director, 5'10", slim, fit, n/s, considerate, unattached, wide creative and practical interests, seeks prof. or graduate lady 30-45, to share summer pleasures. Photo appreciated. Box 6458

SUSSEX/Hants border single 32 5'6" n/s male sincere honest, likes mountain bikes, motorsport, country walks, eating out, pubs, cinema, but in need of some TLC. WLTM female 22-35 to share fun times and life's " ups and downs." Please Reply to Box No 6501.

TALL, dark, slim, mid 30s. London city based solicitor seeks warm, attractive woman (who's more interested in children and animals than fashion and career) in her early 30s. Letter and photo guarantees confidential reply. Box 6269.

TALL slim gentle and non-pretentious man, 58 divorced seeks intelligent affectionate countryside loving woman for happy rewarding relationship. New Forest Area. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 6370.

UNCOMPLICATED, tall, attractive, 34 year old male, sincere, honest, caring & solvent. Likes contemporary music, pubs, good food and wine, countryside and laughter. Hates crowds and discos! Would like to meet good-looking similar minded female to enjoy life's simple pleasures. Photo appreciated. Surrey based. Box No 6842

WILTS/Dorset borders. Caring, honest, divorced, personable male. Young 46, slim, dark, own business, OHAC, WLTM, slim, attractive, N/S lady 35 - 50 for LTR. Photo appr. Please Reply to Box No 6296.

YOU have a sunny disposition, a proven intelligence, are stylish, no ties, have stunning looks, and a versatility (from ballgown to wellies) to enjoy working and playing hard. Mark is 45, professional, sincere, honest, loyal, well travelled, tall and fit; with homes in Devon and London. Photo essential please Box 6363

38 yr old intelligent male. Too much work not enough play Enjoys sailing, country walks and conversation. WLTM similar female to bring out the best in me. Please Reply Box 6366.

GAY A singular man, young thirties and 6ft plus. Good legs and mind to boot. Seeks a gentleman, 40-55, tall, well-built, educated, civilised and interesting. Photo please. Box No 6168.

GAY Cambridge, attractive, professional, 26, slim, well bred, funny. Likes to ski, play tennis, wine & gardening. Seeks similar kindred spirit 25-35 for lasting, loving, laughing friendship, letter and photo to start. Please Reply to Box No 6460.

GAY discreet, Edinburgh based Scot, aged 50, seeks company of similarly inclined, aged 70+ to share theatre outings, dinners and things. Reply to Box No 6457.

GAY Oriental grad., 29, 5'6", attractive, discreet, with GSOH, seeks tall, active, v.masculine man (35-55) for genuine f'ship & affection. London/SE Eng. Photo apprec. Box No 6183.

THE TIMES cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

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Source: NRS Jan-June 94.

We reserve the right to omit an advertisement.

هكذا من الأصل

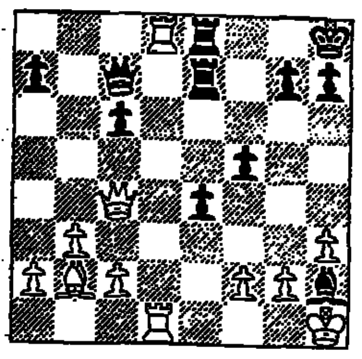
GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ON APRIL 11 I published as a Winning Move a position from the game Szalanczy-Vanscura, Yugoslavia, 1995. White's powerful bishop on b2 and Black's weak back rank are the decisive factors in this position.

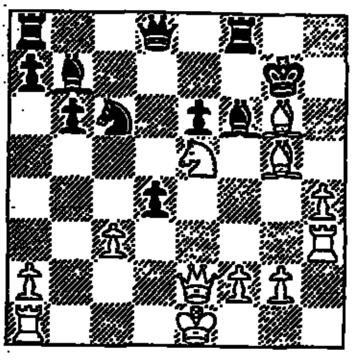
White to play and win.



Solution: 1 Qf7! leaves Black without a sensible reply.

Jason Evans of North Wales suggests that White can also win with the variation 1 Bxg7+ Rxg7 2 Rxe8+. This works, but he has overlooked 1 . . . Kxg7, after which White has no clear way to continue.

The next position is from the game Alekhine-Koenig, Vienna 1922 (published January 3). White has a winning attack, but what is the most direct way to end matters?

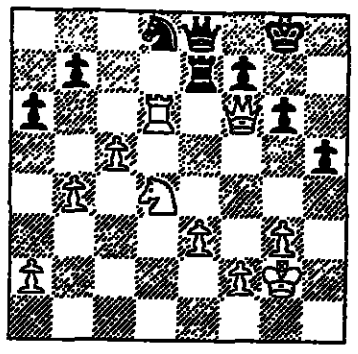


Solution: 1 Bh6+! and the bishop cannot be captured on account of Qh5+ and mate next move.

Black played 1 . . . Kg8, but after 2 Nxc6 Bxc6 3 Qxe6+ Kh8 4 Bxf8, he was a rook in arrears.

Peter Wylie of Devon and Steve Roberts of Middlesex both suggest an interesting alternative for White, namely 1 Qh5, and if 1 . . . Bxg5 2 Qh7+ Kf6 3 Ng4 mate. The main defence to 1 Qh5 is 1 . . . Rh8 after which both Mr Wylie and Mr Roberts continue 2 Bh7 with the ideas of 2 . . . Rxh7 3 Qf7+ Kh8 4 Ng6 mate, 2 . . . Bxg5 3 Qg6+ Kf8 4 Rf3+ winning or 2 . . . Bxe5 3 Qg6+ Kf8 4 Rf3+ again winning. However, a more robust defence for Black is 1 Qh5 Rh8 2 Bh7 Nxe5. Now 3 Qh6 is not checkmate, as the black king has the f7 square at its disposal. A stronger continuation is 3 Rg3 (found by the software program Fritz), after which the position is unclear, but White has good attacking chances. All in all, the conclusion must be that Alekhine's solution was the best.

The final position this week, originally published on March 29, is from the game Lautier-Sokolov, Linares, 1995. Here White found a neat combination which opened up the black kingside defences and allowed him to deliver a quick checkmate. What did he play?



Solution: 1 Nf5! gxf5 2 Qg5+ Kf8 3 Rh6 and Rh8 will inevitably follow. Mr Toremar of Perthshire points out that Black can prevent the mate with 3 . . . Qc6+. However, after 4 Rxc6 Nxc6 5 Qxh5 (incidentally threatening Qh8 mate), White has a queen and two pawns against a rook and knight — an overwhelming material advantage.

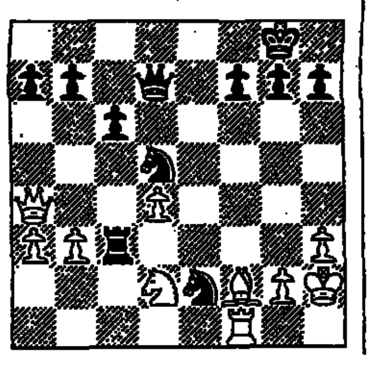
Chess and Bridge are planning three open days over the bank holiday weekend, May 27-29. Call 0171-388 2404 for further details.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

THIS week I will be concentrating on the games of the former world champion Mikhail Botvinnik, who died earlier this month. This position is from the game Bondarevsky - Botvinnik, Leningrad 1941. The black pieces have invaded some sensitive spots in the white position. How did Black now make the most of his active forces? Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday. Last week's solution: 1 ... Qd1+

Last week's winners: J G Morgan, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire; R R Talbot, Rugby, Warwickshire; R A Harding, Saltburn-by-the-Sea, Cleveland.



PUNCHLINE

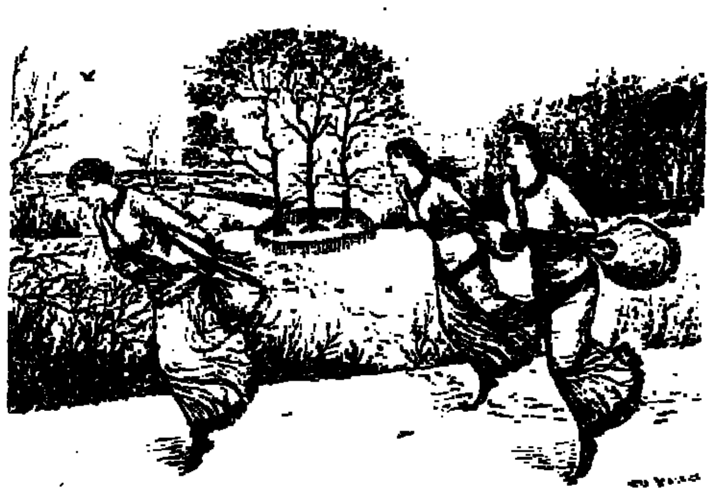
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 58, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, May 24.



HAPPY THOUGHT.

The good old Game of "Hare and Hounds," or "Paper-Chase," is still played by the Northern Suburbs of London during the Winter. Why should not Young Ladies be the Hares!

"I said crochet, not croquet"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Beryl West of Addington, Surrey

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ASPIRATOR

a. An overambitious candidate
b. A medical instrument
c. A Punic admiral

DIRHINOUS

a. Possessed of two nostrils
b. Permeable
c. A Zulu rhino shield

LEPID

a. Witty
b. Of the rabbit family
c. A pebble

DANDIPRAT

a. A silly-billy
b. A short drink
c. A vain exhibitionist

Answers on page 19

COMPUTER GAMES

Cyperspace Fourteen: the winner

WITH tag-lines such as "Aorta — do you know what your liver is doing tonight?" and "Aorta — in the inner ear no one can hear you scream", it wasn't difficult to be drawn into Charles Humphries's imaginative world. Mr Humphries, of Poplar, east London, scoops top prize in our Cyberspace Fourteen competition with Aorta, his "interactive voyage into the heart of the human body". Clearly, this is not a game for the squeamish.

AORTA

IN THE INNER EAR, NO-ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM...

He wrote: "At a government research centre, several researchers have been struck down with a mystery disease believed to be a new and deadly plague which attacks different areas of the body simultaneously. A team of scientists has been shrunk to microscopic size and injected into the bloodstream of one of the victims. Your mission is to navigate a tiny craft through the internal organs of the body and, using the latest medical techniques, repair the damage, combat the disease and find a cure before the plague spreads out of control." Not as easy as it sounds, as your craft is also likely to come under attack from bacteria, viruses and, worse still, the body's own immune system.

This is a game for four, with each taking on the roles of the crew (pilot, navigator, surgeon and physician) armed with various skills.

Mr Humphries continued: "For example, the pilot controls the craft using information provided by the navigator and physician: the navigator scans for position and dangers using visual, X-ray, ultrasound and magnetic scanning; the surgeon carries out physical repairs and combats bacteria, rogue white cells and so on, and the physician is in charge of decoding the information provided on the disease and finding a cure."

Finally, the craft is equipped with a range of microsurgical tools. There's a scanner for detecting and testing body function levels, a laser for cutting through tissue and sealing wounds, an antibiotic gun for stunning bacteria and white blood cells and a drug kit which offers new drugs as the game progresses — depending on the skills of the physician.

So, congratulations to Mr Humphries. He wins a Philips 450 CD-i player complete with video upgrade cartridge and three CD-i titles — the games Burn Cycle and Chaos Control and the movie *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Our two runners-up will each receive the same three CD-i titles, plus a T-shirt. They are Neil Watters of Galashiels, Borders and Martin Leigh of Twyford, Hampshire, whose games were featured last week. Thanks to everyone who took part in the competition. Watch out for news of Cyberspace Fifteen in the coming weeks.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE world of bridge journalism suffered a great loss with the recent death of Hugh Kelsey. He had started as a teacher, diversified into rubber planting, tried his hand as a novelist, and finally found his true niche as a bridge writer and journalist. His first book *Killing Defence at Bridge* was widely acclaimed when it appeared in 1966 and it was followed by nearly 50 other titles that he wrote or co-wrote. In his will, he left his British Public Lending Rights to the Scottish Bridge Union, which will use the income to support players representing Scotland.

Hugh was the bridge correspondent of *The Scotsman* and a regular contributor to several English language bridge magazines. He was no mean player either — winning the premier British event, the Gold Cup, in 1969 and 1980 and representing Scotland in the Camrose series of home internationals 12 times.

This was one of the deals from his first book (which remains a classic). Consider West's problem.

Dealer North   Game All   IMP's

♠KQ
♥J8
♦103
♣AJ108752

♠9762
♥64
♦KJ72
♣KQ4

N
W E
S

W	N	E	S
—	1♣	1♥	2♦
Pass	3♣	Pass	3NT
All pass			

As West you lead the six of hearts and dummy's jack is covered by your partner's queen which wins the trick. East continues with the ace of hearts, then the two, on which South plays the king.

Prospects are very bleak. On the bidding South is likely to hold the aces of spades and diamonds and, with the club honours favourably placed, he looks certain to make his contract. Is there any hope at all for the defence?

There is no certainty of success but, against an imaginative declarer, you should try the effect of discarding your king of clubs on the third round of hearts. It may well appear to South that you are unblocking from Kx in order to create a club entry for your partner. He may therefore abandon clubs and look elsewhere for his tricks. This was the full deal:

♠KQ
♥J8
♦103
♣AJ108752

♠9762
♥64
♦KJ72
♣KQ4

N
W E
S

♠10854
♥AQ10753
♦64
♣6

♠AJ3
♥K92
♦AQ985
♣93

Contract: 3 NT by South.
Lead: six of hearts.

If declarer, after winning the third heart, crosses to dummy with a spade and runs the ten of diamonds to your jack, you must follow up your bluff by leading the four of clubs. South is likely to put up dummy's ace and lead another diamond in which case you will make five tricks.

Martin Hoffman, in partnership with a distinctly weaker player, once essayed a similar coup. This was the deal:

Dealer South   Love all

♠KQ6
♥432
♦8764
♣AJ5

♠872
♥KQJ1086
♦Q3
♣108

N
W E
S

♠10953
♥9
♦A2
♣Q76432

♠AJ4
♥A75
♦KJ1095
♣K9

S	W	N	E
1 NT	2♥	3NT	All Pass

Contract: 3 NT by South.
Lead: king of hearts.

Declarer held off the opening lead of the king of hearts; when West continued the suit, Martin, as East, shrewdly discarded his ace of diamonds. It was a well-judged play. If he had held onto the ace of diamonds the declarer would have crossed to dummy to play diamonds. As he was bound to go down if West had the ace, the declarer would have had no choice but to put up the king, and the 2-2 break would see him home.

After the discard of the ace of diamonds South had no chance — in no way could he come to nine tricks without trying the diamonds and this meant that West would gain the lead to cash his hearts. Or did it?

I warned you that West was not a top-ranking player. When his queen of hearts was allowed to win, in response to his partner's "signal", he switched to the queen of diamonds. Hoffman bore it with what fortitude he could muster.

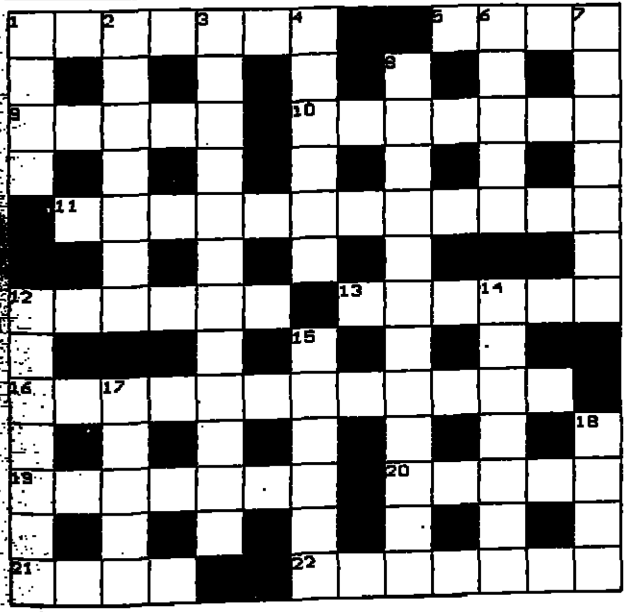
These coups may seem somewhat fanciful, but similar themes occur all the time in more mundane settings. When the declarer is trying to establish a side-suit and one defender has already set up his own winners, the other defender should try and get out of the way so that his partner can win the critical trick.

This is the sort of thing I have in mind:

AK32
Q98   J5
10764

The declarer wishes to set up an extra trick in this suit without letting West in. If the declarer plays the ace or king on the first round East must throw away his jack. Otherwise the declarer can play the second round from hand and duck if West plays low.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 475

ACROSS
1 Entertainer (7)
5 Wye town; Antarctic sea (4)
9 Oxford college; a window (5)
10 Good buy (7)
11 Eventually (2,3,4,3)
12 Placid (6)
13 Regular beat (6)
16 Superficial; falsely alluring (12)
19 Carefree; calm (winter days) (7)
20 Quick glance (slang) (5)
21 Scots town; part of candle (4)
22 Supplied with motive force (7)

DOWN
1 How the mad run (4)
2 Solvent; less fat (7)
3 Aleksandr —, Russian Nobel novelist (12)
4 Preserve (corpse) (6)
6 Broadcasting; where the happy walk (2,3)
7 Word of identical meaning (7)
8 Fully-glazed door (6,6)
12 By one means or another (7)
14 US lorry-driver (7)
15 Abduct for extortion (6)
17 Keepsake; a survival (5)
18 Expression; news; a command (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 474

ACROSS: 1 Talcum 5 Oxford 8 20/20 9 Lacrosse 10 Rickets 11 Kiosk 13 Haberdasher 16 Spree 18 Debauch 21 Surprise 22 Garb 23 Soiree 24 London

DOWN: 2 Abolish 3 Clock 4 Military 5 Ouch 6 Foolish 7 Rusks 12 Farewell 14 Bleeper 15 Ricardo 17 Pluto 19 Argon 20 Hide

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Crosswords - Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £4.50 each. The Times Concise Crossword - Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each. Books 4 to 7 £4.50 each. The Times Two Crosswords - Book 2 £3.99. The Times Jumbo Crosswords - Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each. Concise Book 1 £5.99.
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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3306: A piece of cake by Smokey

FROM the solution to 15 clues a letter must be omitted wherever it occurs. Definitions refer to the full answer, subsidiary indications refer to the actual light. Taken in clue order, the 15 omitted letters suggest how the answers to 17 of the other clues should be treated before entry.

Across
1 Pommy's house in the Commonwealth
7 Protective material: bottom's curling round
12 Address: One, Old Street
14 Colour lost (faded)
15 Cavorting in mud's a practice for people with no clothes on
16 Place for music
17 Extract from late-night Dudley Moore movie
18 Crushes bent pipes with cold and hot running through
20 Cat in the same place facing queen
22 Turn scarlet, knocking front bit off pedal
25 Lawless types near church at start of sedition
27 Public transport reversing through Port Maillot
28 Horse used in Provencal publicity
29 Recent Royal Society sources of illumination
32 Pot, and what's in it?
33 Fall right in a heap
34 Meal over? Not entirely over — here's the sole
35 Where crofter might cook eggs and last slice of bacon
36 Pillow-case: former member of sect doesn't use one
37 After victory, I try Spanish port
38 Fruit basket opened? Precisely
41 Sheepish creature twice left town
43 A vehicle will take it back and forward!
46 Wee vegetable, do you say?
48 It may be caught in net and put in pocket
49 A race for all to see in Pacific island
51 Practice one's maligned at first
52 Brag: male game? Nonsense
53 Catch sailor coming round to commit sabotage
54 Box (Oriental-style) in line, we're told
55 Observer's announced words of agreement
56 Stokes fire, not having long to burn

Down
1 Club, followed by a no-trump in auction
2 Attractive female calling for moderation on a bender
3 Pieces of gold bar switched round, decaying like wood
4 Caught river fish
5 Have sex, pet?
6 Liftman is employed in entrepot, I suppose
7 Money container fool's overturned
8 Story, one old record books exposed initially
9 Sounds like Oriental item of clothing
10 A wild elephant in place of worship
11 Soldiers' doctor twice comes round to make house call! (2 words)
13 Losing bid, I understand, about end of rubber
19 AA got car working in beastly part of the world
21 European countries beheaded secret police figure
23 Old giant tucked in
24 Broad, thick cloth
26 I'm looking into part of wagon to test measurement system
29 Foreign collaborator facing two ways
30 Castigate a financial centre for greed
31 Sun exposed top of nude bird
32 Every ticket seller
39 Monkey held upside down by males makes nasty smell
40 Seize second rate unit
41 Dingy in English clothing
42 See green design
44 Short distance on island, New York one
45 Pot one after another, though not first in tournament
47 Expend energy out of sight
48 Several iniquities numbering seven, principally
50 Eat up in Scotland as well

1	1	6	1	4	7	0	5	4
8	9	3	6	2	4	9	6	4
9	8	1	9	0	2	5	7	1
7	8	2	3	9	4	2	6	1
4	1	9	8	0	5	6	1	2
7	2	5	8	8	6	5	0	5
2	1	2	6	1	2	9	0	0
1	0	4	9	8	8	6	9	8
5	2	2	1	7	8	1	2	1

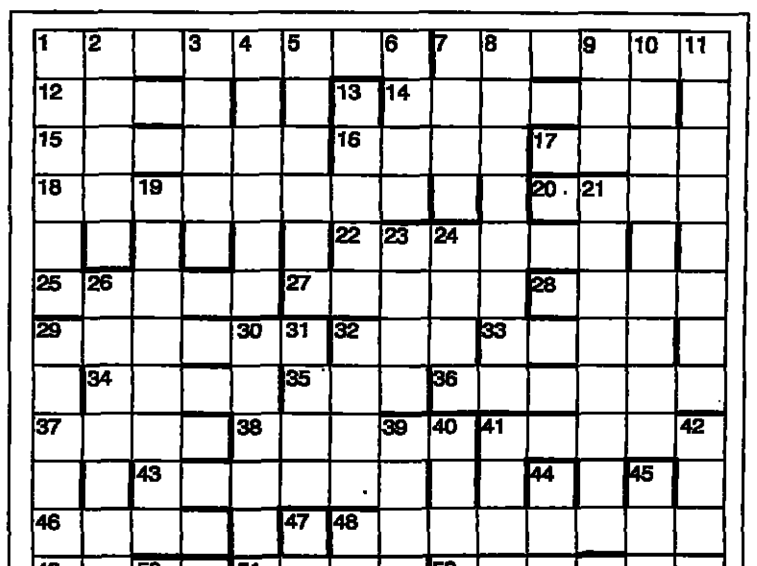
Solution to No. 3303
Unsquare Dance by Googly

X = 5408

Winners

The winner, who receives book tokens worth £50, is C.J. Shaddock, of Edinburgh.

The runners-up, who each get book tokens worth £20, are Neil McHale, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, and Sheila M. Perkins, of Rushden, Northamptonshire.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3306

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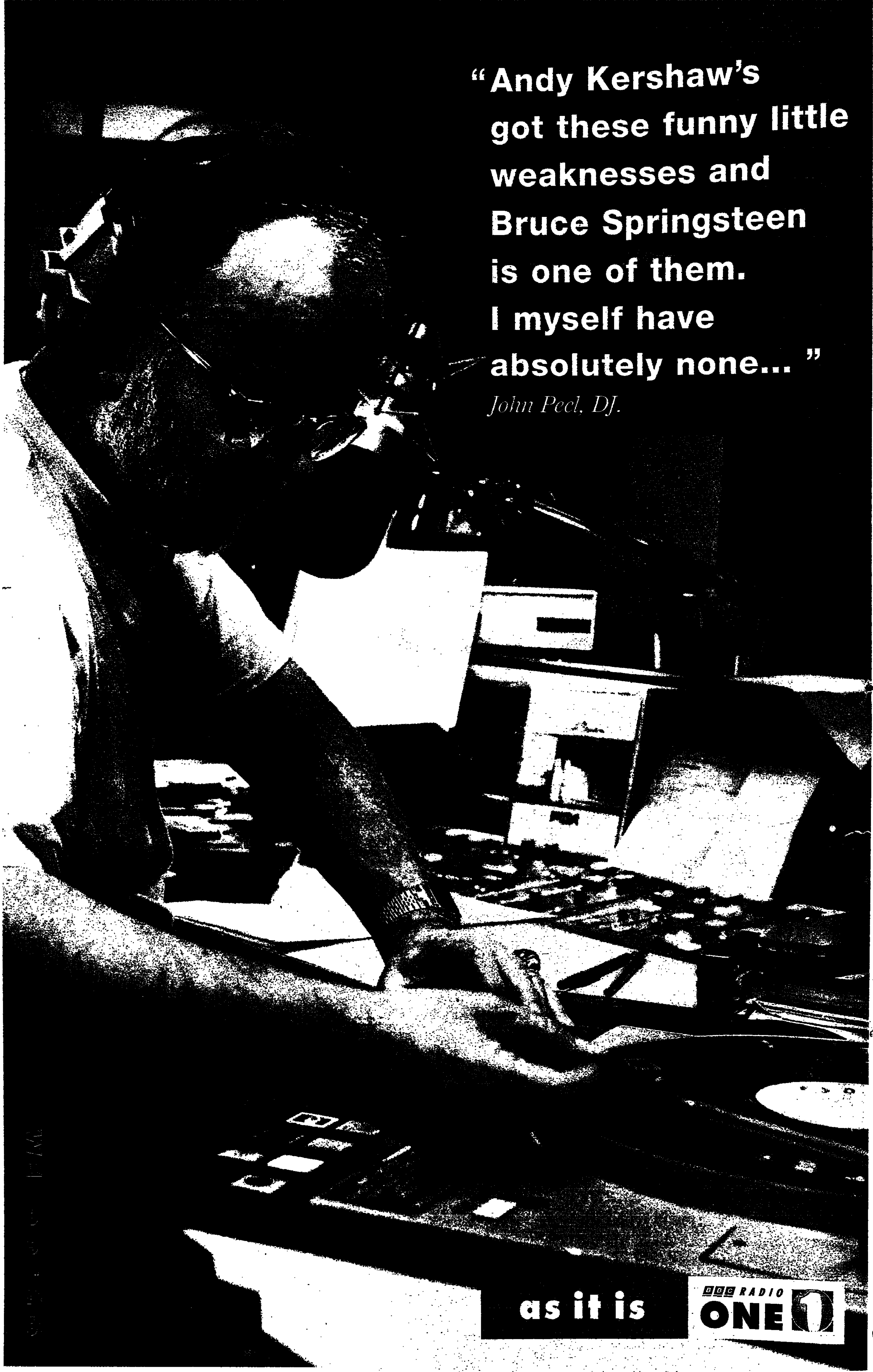
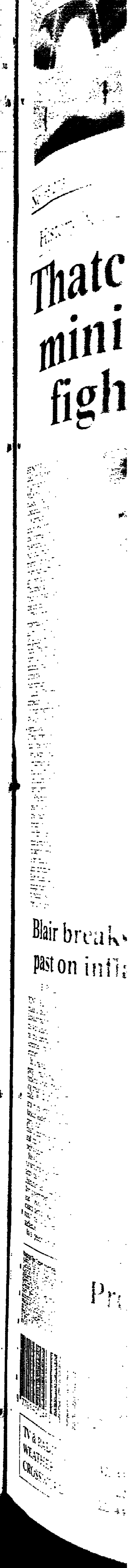
PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3306, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, June 1.



"Andy Kershaw's got these funny little weaknesses and Bruce Springsteen is one of them. I myself have absolutely none… "

John Peel, DJ.



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